

JUS SUFFRAGII,

PUBLISHED BY THE
INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

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THIRD YEAR No. 3.

NOVEMBER 15, 1908.

Die Zeit, wo es statt einer „Frauenbewegung“ nur noch eine Aufwärtsbewegung der Menschheit geben wird, ist noch fern, und erst muss der sichere Grund dazu durch die allgemeine Anerkennung der freien Persönlichkeit der Frau auf allen Lebensgebieten, in allen menschlichen Beziehungen geschaffen werden.

MARIE STRITT.



The vote of the father has not yet quite accomplished the rescue of the children of our manufacturing States from overwork in crowded and heated factories. It might be well to have the voice of the mother also.

Senator GEORGE F. HOAR.

PRICE 2 DUTCH FLORINS PER YEAR.

Announcements.

The Report of the Amsterdam Congress may be purchased of Miss Kramers, 92 Kruiskade, Rotterdam for 75 cent post paid. In getting money orders ask for the equivalent of f 0.75. It is about 1.25 Mk. in German money; 1 sh. 3 d. in English money; 0.30 \$ in American money; 1½ fr. in French money.

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

At present there are still more than 300 copies available.

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Leaflet No. 1, *Woman Suffrage in New Zealand*, and Leaflet No. 2, *Woman Suffrage in Australia*, are sold off.

LECTURERS.

We shall give here the changes in the tours of our lecturers which have come to our notice, together with the new names to be added to the list.

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

Miss Rosika Schwimmer (address: 36 Elemer ucaza, Budapest VII) will speak at Düsseldorf on

Nov. 23 and from there come to the Netherlands for some days.

Mrs. Madge Donohoe (address: Villa Montmorency, Auteuil, Paris) was born in N. S. Wales, has been an ardent suffragist from her childhood, and has since 1902 had experience of woman suffrage in her country. She represented Australia at the Amsterdam and Geneva international conventions and is going to give some lectures in the Netherlands during the second half of November, after which she will probably go to Belgium and Denmark.

Dear Correspondents and Readers!

In the absence of any presidential or vice-presidential letters, I hope you will give the same amount of attention to my words, when I urge you all to do whatever you can to make our London Congress a brilliant and representative gathering of earnest and able workers for the cause of woman suffrage. That is the only thing we can do for our British sisters; they have themselves every other requirement for the struggle: courage, eloquence, knowledge and even money, which is so sadly failing in most other countries. So let us help them by coming from everywhere and coming in thousands. Nor is London lacking in preparations to receive us all; in last month's "Jus Suffragii" you saw from Mrs. Fawcett's letter what our hostess, the National Union of Women Suffrage Societies, is doing, and the Women's Social and Political Union has rented the Albert Hall for April 29. So let no nation fail to send its delegates and other suffragists in great numbers to the London Convention from April 26 to May 1, 1909.

As a curiosum I must tell you of two facts that go to prove that the question of women suffrage is in the air all over the world, and is no longer to be pushed back from the scene by any other alleged precedence of political or social problems. My proof is, dear readers, that the trade is taking our cause up. I got an offer from a manufacturer of cinematographical films, who is a great suffragist, and offers for 100 Roubles a film of 110 Meters, which shows in seven min-

utes the great procession of women held in London last June. And I saw in a silversmith's shop at The Hague beautiful spoons with on the handle the walkyrie-figure which has served for a poster to announce the big London Suffrage-demonstration on 13 June. They promised me spoons with our own „Jus Suffragii"-figure too. Possibly you will hear more of these two enterprises.

As for our paper, I have always the same recommendations and requests about paying and sending your news *before the sixth* and distributing sample-copies — we print 750 now —, and I can only add that I would be grateful to you if you would take the trouble to read again my October-letter, and even more so, if you would comply with the requests made therein.

Believe me yours sincerely,

MARTINA G. KRAMERS.

Rotterdam, November 10, 1908.

South Africa.

The Women's Enfranchisement League at Cape Town has issued a manifesto in which are answered the following questions:

Why do women want the vote?

Why do women deserve the vote?

On what grounds can South African women ask for the vote?

If the sex disqualification were removed in Cape Colony would all women vote?

Why is it important to get the vote now?

Those to whom these answers appeal are requested to help the cause by signing a petition to be forwarded to the National Convention, the prayer of which is "that citizenship in United South Africa be granted to all women who possess the same qualifications as may be required from men."

The W. E. L. sent the following letter to the editor of the Cape Argus:—

Sir, — We understand that there is an erroneous idea which is being given currency among certain sections of women viz., that in the event of women being given the suffrage on the same terms as men in Cape Colony, all the coloured women would become eligible for registration as voters. Nothing could be further from the truth. To be able to register as a voter in Cape Colony a man must.

(a) Be able to sign his name and write his address and occupation.

(b) For twelve months prior to registration have occupied premises of the value of £ 75; or

(c) Be in receipt of wages of not less than £ 50 a year.

There are in this Colony 579,741 Europeans, of whom 318,544 are males and 261,197 females, and 1,424,787 natives, of whom 692,728 are males and 732,059 females; and 405,276 coloured people, of whom 206,668 are males and 197,608 females; the whole non-European population being 1,830,063.

Under the present qualifications there are 129,337 registered male European voters or 40.6 per cent. of the whole white population, while only 22,784 coloured or natives are registered voters, i.e., 2.5 per cent. of the male coloured and native population and 1.2 per cent. of the whole coloured and white population.

Even under the ridiculous supposition that an almost equal proportion of women to men would

be qualified to register as voters, only 2 per cent. of the coloured females or 18,593, could become registered voters; while under the same absurd supposition 40 per cent. of the white females, or 104,478 could do so.

It is evident at a glance that a larger proportion of white females to males would be qualified than coloured females as proportionately many more white women occupy houses of the value of £ 75 in their own name and earn wages to the value of £ 50 a year. Also, white women would undoubtedly take more pains to get registered.

Taking the optimistic estimate of one half the proportion of white women to white men being qualified and becoming registered voters, and one-third the proportion of coloured women to coloured men, we get the following results: 52,239 added to the white vote, making it 181,876, or 31 per cent. of the whole white population; and 6,179 added to the coloured and native vote, making it 28,951, or 1.5 per cent. of the whole coloured and native population.

Thus the white vote would gain proportionately above the coloured vote by almost 10 per cent., so that although a certain number of individual coloured women would become voters, the white vote, as a whole, would be strengthened.

This strengthening of the intelligent white vote has been one of our main arguments in favour of the adoption of women's suffrage in this Colony and an examination of the census and the election returns fully bears us out.—We are, etc.,

(Signed) I. M. A. MACFADYEN,
President Women's Enfranchise-
ment League;

S. METELERKAMP, and
E. M. WOODS,

Hon. Secs. W.E.L.

Miss Edith M. Woods, Hon. Sec. of the W.E.L., writes from Cape Town on Oct. 21:—

"We have been having a particularly active time lately, in view of the National Convention, now sitting at Durban. We have been petitioning the delegates, our prayer being that in any scheme of Union which they may adopt, the women shall not be disfranchised. We have a good number of the delegates as supporters, others are indifferent, and others (including our own Premier) are violently opposed.

Petitions have been sent up from the four Colonies, our own, the Cape, and Natal being, I believe, the most numerous signed. Unfortunately in Cape Colony an Anti movement has been most active. The proceedings at the Convention are in camera, so we know nothing how things are faring, except that the Petitions are being presented to-day."

Belgium.

In October two women's associations of Ghent invited Miss Martina Kramers to lecture on the position of modern women. The result of the conference was that they are planning now a course of lectures from Mme. Gilain L. L. D., President of the Belgian W. S. A. at Brussels, and that possibly the Belgian W. S. A. may soon count a sufficient number of local sections to be eligible for membership of the I. W. S. Alliance.

M. G. K.

Iceland.

The Icelandic Women's Suffrage Association, that was founded in Reykjavík on the 27th of Jan. 1907, was hitherto limited to that town. Represented by its president, Fru Briet Bjarnhéðinsdóttir Asmundsson, the Association has tried last summer to establish branches all over the island. The population living very dispersedly, there are, except the capital, only Akureyri, Seydisfjörður and Isafjörður, that might be called small towns. In the two first-named places Mrs. Asmundsson succeeded in founding branches with regular committees. In Isafjörður the burgomaster's wife promised to constitute a Committee and in two other still smaller places, Blönduós and Saudárkrókur there were influential ladies who gave the same promise. When the summer is over, it is rather difficult to travel in Iceland, so the new branches must be left to themselves, the more so as mails arrive often with a month's interval. In the meantime the Association in Reykjavík prepares a reorganisation as „Iceland's National Woman Suffrage Association" and intends to request affiliation to the Intern. W. S. Alliance at the approaching London congress.

Alkmaar, Oct. 27, 1908.

E. V. D. HOEVEN.

Great Britain.

In order to supply the Prime Minister with the proof for which he asked the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies arranged meetings all over the country during this month. Mr. Asquith was asked to receive a deputation of the chairmen of these meetings, in nearly every case local men of influence. His reply, though a refusal, was not the ordinary formal cast one but showed a certain comprehension of the importance of the movement.

Mr. Asquith's secretary writes: „that Mr. Asquith is always prepared to take note of any indications of public opinion on this question and he is aware, from numerous communications that he has received, of the facts of which you speak.

He has read with interest the list of meetings and chairmen which you have been so good as to send him, and having informed himself in this way as to the state of things you desire to bring to his knowledge, *he does not think that any useful purpose would be served by his receiving a deputation*".

These meetings reached their climax in Manchester at a grand demonstration lasting over two days. A mass meeting was held on the Friday evening at which one of our staunchest friends, Lord Courtney of Penrith, presided. The success of this may be gauged by the very friendly leading article and columns of description in the „Manchester Guardian" a responsible and influential paper. The procession next day, headed by six rows of speakers and a band and decorated with banners, marched through the great city to the Park where an already large crowd was waiting. 10 simultaneous meetings were held. At each meeting the speakers spoke on women's suffrage in connection with a special social need. The well-known reformer Mr. E. Carpenter spoke on „Prison Reform", Mr. Penis of the Peace Society and Prof. Weiss appeared with able women on the „Peace" Platform. Canon Hicks spoke with Mrs. Tattersall from heartfelt experience on „Temperance". Professr Alexander of the Manchester University dealt with „Education". Dr. Ethel Bentham presided over the „Protection of Children"

meeting. „Housing and Health" and „Women and the Poor Law", the latter dealt with by Miss Magaret Ashton, were among the subjects chosen. Mrs. Despard spoke on „Social Ethics" and Miss Llewelyn Davies, the secretary of the Women's Co-operative Guild presided over the „Co-operation Section". Miss Reddish, secretary of the Women's Textile and other workers' Committee, spoke on Labour Legislation.

The organisation of the proceedings received, as it deserved, cordial appreciation from the Press, which reported the speeches at all ten platforms, and there can be no doubt that the educative effect over the North of England has been great.

The petition of the Newcastle electors in favour of Woman's Suffrage was presented at the opening of Parliament by Mr. Hudson, the Senior Member for Newcastle. The petition was signed by 3665 electors of the one constituency, and was headed by Mr. Thos. Burt, M.P., His Majesty's Privy Councillor, the Deputy Lord Mayor Richard Wagner and Charles Fenwick, M.P.

At Pontypridd, S. Wales, both the party agents the Conservative and the Liberal made strong speeches to induce the Revising Barrister to leave some women's names on the list of Parliamentary voters.

We are glad to record that Miss Margaret Ashton has been returned as member of the Town Council of Manchester and Mrs. Garrett Anderson as Mayoress of Aldeburgh.

MARGERY I. CORBETT.

London, Nov. 1908.

History has been made during October by the National Women's Social and Political Union; the movement for Woman's Suffrage has entered another, a more serious and significant stage.

The 13th October marked the third anniversary of the inauguration of the militant tactics of the Union. To mark the occasion an invitation was issued to the men and women of London inviting them to be present in Parliament Square on the evening of that day in order to see fair play between the Government and the Women, who intended to go, as they had so often gone before, in deputation to the House of Commons.

The Sunday previous to the 13th Mrs. Pankhurst, Miss Christabel Pankhurst and Mrs. Drummond addressed a mass meeting in Trafalgar Square, urging the people to help the suffragettes carry out their programme, and „rush" the House of Commons on the 13th. On the following day they were summoned to appear at the Police Court so that they might answer to a charge of inciting to disorder. This summons was ignored, with the result that on the Tuesday, warrants were issued for the arrest of the three leaders, who delivered themselves up to the police the same evening. They were taken to the Police Court, detained in the cells during the night, and brought before the magistrate the following morning. Miss Christabel Pankhurst adopted the role of leading council, and after closely cross-examining the witnesses brought forwards by the authorities, applied for and obtained a week's adjournment of the case. In the meantime, the people of London had responded to the Suffragettes' appeal and many thousands of people assembled in the vicinity of Westminster. A cordon of police was formed across all the streets leading to the Houses

of Parliament, and for four hours the traffic was completely disorganised. At 7.30 a deputation of 13 left the Caxton Hall (where a meeting was being held) and attempted to reach the House of Commons. The little procession was immediately broken up and its members arrested. Again and again women attempted to gain Parliament Square — to be driven back again and again. In the end the police (of whom there were 6,000 both mounted and foot) succeeded in clearing the streets, and 24 Suffragettes were taken to the police station. Of these 7 were sentenced the following day, the remainder being remanded for a week.

The next Wednesday the trial of the three leaders again came on. Miss Pankhurst had called on two Cabinet Ministers—Mr. Herbert Gladstone (Home Sec.) and Mr. Lloyd George (Chancellor of the Exchequer) — as witnesses, and her brilliant and searching examination of these two gentlemen won the admiration and respect even of those most bitterly opposed to her. After a protracted trial lasting till 8 o'clock at night, the case was adjourned till the following Saturday.

Before it was again heard however, those women arrested on the 13th who had not yet been sentenced, were brought before the Magistrate and received sentences varying from 21 days to 3 months.

On Saturday, October 24th, the final scenes in the trial of Mrs. Pankhurst, Miss Christabel Pankhurst and Mrs. Drummond took place. Although Miss Pankhurst had informed the magistrate the previous Wednesday that she had some 50 further witnesses, she was only permitted to call three, after which the defendants were called on to make any speeches they desired to. The brilliant address delivered by Miss Christabel Pankhurst, the powerful and eloquent appeal made by Mrs. Pankhurst, and the simple directness of Mrs. Drummond's words, will never be forgotten by those who heard them. Long after our leaders have been released, long after this struggle has ended, and women have won the political freedom they have fought for so long and earnestly, the memory of those moving scenes will linger in the hearts of those who were present. At the conclusion of the speeches, the magistrate briefly summarised the facts of the case, and then, amidst a silence that was painful in its intensity, gave sentence. Mrs. Pankhurst and Mrs. Drummond were to be bound over for 12 months or in default go to prison for 3 months, Miss Christabel Pankhurst to be also bound over, or go to prison for 10 weeks.—

"We will go to prison, Sir", Mrs. Pankhurst's words broke the spell which succeeded the pronouncement of these sentences, and cheer after cheer was given for Mrs. Pankhurst and her colleagues, loud cheers which the authorities were powerless to quell.

The heavy and vindictive sentences, (the most disgraceful part of which lay in the fact that they entailed imprisonment as ordinary criminals in the 2nd division), inflicted on the three leaders, evoked a storm of indignation throughout the country. The mass meeting held in the Albert Hall the following Thursday, was converted into a great meeting of protest against the Government and a resolution warning the Government that such methods of coercion were absolutely useless, and calling on the immediate release of the prisoners was passed unanimously. So great was the enthusiasm shown that when an appeal for practical help was made, money poured in from all quarters of the hall, whilst women

stripped the trinkets from their arms and sent them up to the platform to be sold.

EMMELINE PETHICK LAWRENCE.
London, November 1908.

The **Women's Freedom-League** increases in strength and numbers. Propagandist works and the formation of new Branches are being carried out throughout the length and breadth of the land, but the most startling and arresting events of the past month were the protests carried out by our members on Oct. 28 in and outside of the House of Commons.

On the evening of that day while a dreary debate on the Licensing Bill was drowsily proceeding, a languid and uninterested House was suddenly startled into wakefulness by the clear tones of a woman's voice demanding justice for her sex. The voice came from behind the "grille" of the Ladies' Gallery and belonged to Miss Muriel Matters, an Australian lady, who is helping her English sisters to win the freedom she herself possesses. As she continued her speech with dignity and earnestness, excited male attendants rushed to the gallery, dragged out its occupants without ceremony, with the exception of two, Miss Matters and Miss Fox, who had taken the precaution to chain themselves to the bars of the den into which English ladies are placed when they shew the bad taste of desiring to hear Parliamentary speeches. Thus Miss Matters was enabled to continue her address to the House, while Miss Fox displayed a Votes for Women-banner to the gaze of the astonished and terrified legislators below. Finally after much running to and fro, the perturbed attendants realized that the ladies could not be removed unless the grille was removed at the same time. This idea was acted upon, and our friends were at last escorted off the premises with large portions of the grille attached to them, and carried for them with great pomp and ceremony by their captors. These novel ornaments having been at length filed off, the ladies were then free to take part in another demonstration which was being held outside the House, and here it was that Miss Matters and others were arrested. Simultaneous protests were also made in the Lobby and in the Men's Gallery.

Unfortunately the police had suspected disturbances and many of our friends were refused admittance to the gallery, in which a number of detectives had taken their seats. Two members of the "Men's League" however contrived to demand "justice for women", had time to fling down leaflets explaining our position to the members, before being turned violently out of the House.

Thus came to an end a historic protest. The grille has been repaired, but the shattered nerves of the members are still in a thousand pieces, and a Bill for the protection of members of Parliament is to be rushed through into law before any other business can be dispatched. It is to enact that any person throwing things at Honourable Members or speaking within the sacred precincts of the House in such a manner as to cause an Honourable Member to jump or to shake in his shoes, shall be dealt with as a Common Brawler and punished by the strong arm of the law. Some few members are objecting to "panic legislation", but the poor gentlemen who were struck on the head by leaflets, will hear of no compromise. Some of them at the first stroke certainly thought that the long expected German Emperor and his army had arrived at last and were throwing things at

them; and when they were assured that it was "the suffragettes" they seemed to think that that only made matters more terrifying. The Prime Minister escaped the worst, as he was absent at a meeting, which, I may add, parenthetically, was interrupted 13 times by suffragists. Returning when all danger was over and hearing the thrilling adventures through which his poor followers had struggled, report says that he lost for a brief period that calmness and self-control which distinguishes all statesmen, and said things in that holy place, which, if expressed by a suffragist, would certainly have been punished by imprisonment for life.

On the following day, the magistrate who tried our 12 arrested members, taking his cue from the temper of the Government, sent them to prison for a month (in default of paying a fine of £ 5.—) placing them in the lowest division which is reserved for the commonest thieves and rogues. Much agitation has since caused them to be placed in the second division, which involves slightly less degrading conditions but which is still an unjust punishment for political offenders. Our brave prisoners however have the satisfaction of knowing that their protest in conjunction with the recent cleverly planned demonstration got up by the W. S. & P. U. has advanced the cause by leaps and bounds.

The cause makes splendid progress.

MAUDE FITZHERBERT.

London, Nov. 1908.

The **Irish Women's Suffrage and Local Government Association** sends the following letter to the Members of the Cabinet and to many M.P.'s:—

Dear Sir,— At a Public Meeting held in the Mansion House, by permission of the Right Honorable the Lord Mayor, on the 4th of September, J. P. Nannetti, Esq., M.P., ex-Lord Mayor, presiding, the following Resolution was proposed by Miss Hayden, M.A., seconded by Professor Cole, F.G.S., supported by Miss White, LL.D., and Miss Rowan, Tralee, and carried unanimously:—

"That, in the judgment of this Meeting, the time has fully come when, in the social, educational, and industrial interests, both of themselves and of the entire community, the women of the United Kingdom should be enfranchised upon the same terms as their fellow-countrymen; and that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister, and other Members of the Cabinet."

I am, on behalf of the Association, yours faithfully,

ANNA M. HASLAM—HOUBEC.

The Irish Women's Suffrage and Local Government Association has also written to each of the Commissioners of Intermediate Education, the Chief Secretary, etc. that, having been informed that there is a probability of their appointing a number of inspectors to visit the secondary schools in Ireland, the Association would respectfully urge that, as a very large proportion of those schools are devoted to the education of girls, it is exceedingly desirable that a corresponding proportion of experienced, qualified women should be included amongst the staff of the inspectors.

United States.

The Fortieth Annual Convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association has been epoch-making for our cause. It celebrates the sixtieth anniversary of the first Woman's Rights Convention held in this State of New-York, at the little village of Seneca Falls, and the second evening was entirely devoted to a discussion of the Declaration of Rights issued by that Convention in 1848. The table upon which the Call for that memorable gathering was signed was upon the platform; for many years it was the prized possession of Susan B. Anthony and now belongs to our National President. Rev. Anna Shaw and Lucy E. Antony, who loaned it for this celebration.

The Women's Declaration of Rights was divided into a preamble and twelve resolutions, each of which was allotted to an able speaker to discuss on our pioneer's evening. The radical resolution upon which all our efforts depend, reads as follows; "Resolved, That it is the duty of the women of this country to secure to themselves their sacred right to the elective franchise."

This was offered at Seneca Falls by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and was considered most radical even by her associates there; at first all the meeting opposed her but she finally won to her point of view the great Frederic Douglas, a very eloquent man, and together they carried the entire convention with them in favor of this pivotal demand. At our present meeting this resolution was discussed ably by Mrs. Harriot Stanton Blatch the daughter of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, who is one of our best suffrage speakers in this country.

On the platform sat some of those who joined the movement in its early days of persecution and who have lived to see its present large measure of success. The Honorary Chairman was Mrs. Eliza Wright Osborne, a niece of Lucretia Mott who, with Mrs. Stanton, originated the idea of calling the Seneca Falls Convention. On one side of the platform was a beautiful picture of Lucy Stone when a young woman, and on the other the last picture of Susan B. Anthony with which many of the readers of "Jus Suffragii" are familiar from seeing it at the Amsterdam Congress.

Some months ago I wrote to "Jus Suffragii" that we were rejoicing over the formation of Woman Suffrage Leagues of college graduates in many of our leading cities and of Leagues of students in many of our colleges and universities of the highest standing. These Leagues sent delegates from twelve States to Buffalo, and on Saturday, October 17th, they organised the National College Equal Suffrage League with President M. Carey Thomas of Bryn Mawr College as its president and a board of officers which is representative of the entire United States and of some of its finest Universities.

At the last Convention in which Miss Anthony took part (at Baltimore, in February, 1906) President Thomas and Miss Mary Garrett of that city arranged a College-Evening at which women college professors paid their tribute of gratitude to Miss Anthony and the pioneers in the woman suffrage movement, for the magnificent educational opportunities which had been opened to the womanhood of this generation by the efforts of these older women and their great personal sacrifices. Since that time our work in the United States has had no more devoted helpers than President Thomas and Miss Garrett and the organization of the National College Equal Suffrage League nation-

ally and its direct affiliation with the National American Woman Suffrage Association, is their way of paying their debt to Miss Anthony by helping on the work to which her whole life was so unselfishly given.

At this Convention there was reported the affiliation of the Equality League of Self-Supporting Women which numbers nineteen thousand members. This, as well as the formation of the National College League, forms an epoch in our advancement; each of these associations brings to the cause of woman suffrage a new ally, and two important departments of the work of the coming year will be aiding the development of these organizations in every possible way, without in any way interfering with their complete autonomy.

At the closing public session at which the speakers were the International President, Mrs. Chapman Catt, and Rabbi Stephen Wise of New-York City, the latter closed an impassioned address by announcing that the preliminary plans were completed for the organization of a Men's League for the Enfranchisement of Women, which was received with great enthusiasm. The names of the leaders are not yet announced but the knowledge that Rabbi Wise is actively concerned in this organization gives assurance to all who know of his ability, influence and devotion to the ideal of political liberty for women as the need of our time, that the new organization will be formed upon a substantial basis and will be an immense help to our movement.

At the session devoted to raising the pledges for money for the coming year's work, a gift of ten thousand dollars was made by Mrs. George Howard Lewis of this city to the Susan B. Anthony Fund. This also was an epoch in our work, for it is the first time in the history of the movement in this country that such a large sum of money has come unsolicited into our treasury. Mrs. Lewis is the treasurer of the Buffalo Woman Suffrage League and has had much to do with the success of this Anniversary Convention. It may interest my readers in Holland to know that she is a sincere admirer of the great Dutch painter, Israels, and the possessor of two of his paintings: she was much interested to hear of his sympathy with the woman suffrage movement in that country. Her generous gift to the work here has lightened the burdens of our Official Board and enabled us to plan work along some new lines for the coming year.

Mrs. Emma Smith De Voe, President of the Equal Suffrage Association of the State of Washington, presented the invitation of that society to hold the 1909 Convention at Seattle. This invitation was sent to the Chicago Convention last year, but that meeting had no right to bind the association two years ahead, so could only accept it conditionally. This year it was received enthusiastically and accepted by a rising vote and the Washington President left for her far-distant home to set in motion all possible influences to make the Seattle Meeting a grand and successful one. It is probable that by the time of the Convention (which is likely to be held in July), the Washington Legislature will have submitted to the voters of that State an Amendment to enfranchise their women and the National Convention is expected to aid in the campaign which will follow such an action of the Legislature. The Alaska-Yukon Exposition will be held next year (April to November) at Seattle and will give us very low rates on the railroads and it will be a splendid opportunity for all the

European suffragists who intend to come over for the International Council in Canada, to visit the Pacific Coast and help a little in the struggle of the Washington women for the political freedom which they enjoyed years ago and which was unjustly taken from them by a legal technicality after a long and brave struggle on the part of the women.

We were throughout this entire convention, kept in touch with the work in other countries by the presence and words of the International President, of the first International Secretary: also by the interesting address of a young Suffragette, Miss Ray Costelloe, (a graduate of Newnham College) upon "Equal Suffrage among English University Women" and the stirring, enthusiastic speech of Mrs. Philip Snowden, a member of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies of England. We were not allowed to forget that our movement is a world-movement and at the instigation of Mrs. Chapman-Catt, we are making it a part of this coming year's work to secure a monster petition to the Congress of the United States, as she feels that in this way we will help to show the world that the movement in the United States is not dead, as Mrs. Humphrey Word falsely reports it, but more alive than it has ever been.

This city is said to be a stronghold of Mrs. Ward's fellow anti-suffragists and they can tell her whether our convention with its immense and constantly increasing audiences, its enthusiastic workers, its reports of work done and plans for work to come, and its generous gift of money to carry out our plans, looks as though we were dead or not. "They that are dizzy, see the world go round;" perhaps Mrs. Ward saw only what she wished to see and listened only to what she wished might be true; either that is the case or else she wilfully mis-represented the state of our work.

Our President urged the women to try to go to the London Meeting next year in large numbers. She will surely be there to head our delegation and if she speaks as magnificently and works as hard at the International Quinquennial as she has at our Sixtieth Anniversary Convention, the English workers will not be disappointed in their expectations.

RACHEL FOSTER AVERY.

Buffalo, New-York U. S. A.

Finland.

The first session of the second Landtdag (Parliament) came to an end on Oct. 31, and our women M.P.'s have gone back to their usual occupations till the 1st of February, when Parliament will again be opened. Very few of the bills introduced by the women M.P.'s have as yet passed the second reading on account of the important political questions which have occupied the attention of the Landtdag. One bill, the raising of the age of consent from 12 to 15 years has however passed the crucial second reading, and the Landtdag has requested a Government-bill to be introduced in the next session, in which the age of consent shall be fixed at 15 and the punishment for violation shall always be prison, not, as now in certain cases, fines.

The debate on this question was very hot and made evident, if we had not known it before, that there is a great difference in the way most men view this painful subject from that of women. All

the women of the "bourgeois" parties supported Baroness Alexandra Gripenberg's amendment that the age of consent should be raised to 17. This amendment was unfortunately defeated by 145 votes to 43, and as the women M.P.'s are 23, it seems that at least 20 men supported Baroness Gripenberg's amendment.

The bills concerning "married women's property", "the extension of the mothers' right over their children" and "the abolition of the husband's guardianship over his wife" have not yet passed the second reading. All we know is that the women members of the Law Committee, to which these bills were referred, have had to stand a hard fight. The men members in the Committee, of all parties whether bourgeois or Soc. Dem., held that only the "women's rights-women" urged the revision of the marriage-laws, and that the rest of womankind was content with the "status quo".

When this became known, protests came from all sides. Women of all sorts and conditions sent signed petitions to some of the women M.P.'s urging the revision of the marriage-laws, and most of the women's associations took up the question and passed resolutions giving moral support to the women members and urging the points in the bills upon the marriage question. Anyhow our short experience has taught us that there is "many slip between the cup and the lip", and that even with the help of suffrage and "equal rights", we may still have a hard fight for — equal rights.

ANNIE FURUHJELM.

Helsingfors, Nov. 2, 1908.

The Netherlands.

The Men's League for Woman Suffrage adopted a constitution in its meeting on Oct. 24 at The Hague. It has already put itself into touch with the Men's League in Great Britain and is planning an international federation of this sort of Leagues. The idea seems neither too far-off nor unpractical, for in Victoria, Hungary and the United States we hear of similar organisations, and possibly more may arise, as men are beginning to realize that women's enfranchisement is for the good of the whole community, far from being a selfish craving of the female sex.

The N.W.S.A. will hold its annual meeting at Leeuwarden on December 12 and 13. Communications to be addressed to the Secretary, Mrs. J. van Buuren, 43 Linnaeusstraat, Amsterdam.

MARTINA G. KRAMERS.

Rotterdam, November 1908.

Austria.

Der Verein für Fraueninteressen in Troppau in Oesterreich-Schlesien hat in Gemeinschaft mit den Industriallehrerinnen, den Kindergärtnerinnen und einem Teil der leider nicht organisierten gewerbetreibenden Frauen, ein Gesuch um Erlangung des Kommunalwahlrechts an den Gemeinderat überreicht. Da für Troppau eine neue Gemeinde-wahlreform ausgearbeitet wird, worin nur für die gewerbetreibenden Frauen das aktive Wahlrecht vorgesehen ist, haben nun die angeführten Frauen das Wahlrecht in demselben Ausmasse, wie es der männlichen Wählerschaft zugeordnet ist, für alle Frauen verlangt. Im IV. Wahlkörper wird

nämlich jeder, der das 24. Lebensjahr überschritten hat, wahlberechtigt sein, wenn dies auf die Frauen ausgedehnt würde, könnten auch die nicht steuerzahlenden Frauen wählen.

(from "Zeitschr. f. Frauenstimmrecht.")

Unser Gesuch wurde abgewiesen und das Wählen mittelst Vollmacht konfisziert. Ein Protest an den Landesausschuss blieb ohne Erfolg. Selbstverständlich nehmen wir das nicht ruhig hin; Mittwoch am 18. halten wir eine grosse Protestversammlung ab, machen von der sechzigstägigen Rekursfrist Gebrauch und reichen überdies ein Majestätsgesuch ein um Verweigerung der Sanktion.

ANNA WARNICZEK.

Troppau, 9 November, 1908.

Germany.

On the occasion of the opening of the Prussian Diet (Landtag) on Oct. 20th, the Berlin Women's League (Frauenwohl) and the Berlin W. S. A. arranged together a crowded meeting to discuss the Claims of Women on the Representatives of the People. Maria Lischnewska, Else Lüders and Mrs. Minna Cauer presented the problems of school-reform, social legislation and politics, and after a lively discussion the following resolution was nearly unanimously adopted.

„Die Versammlung richtet an die Abgeordneten des preussischen Landtages die Forderung, in stärkerem Masse als bisher die Wünsche der preussischen Frauen im Parlament zu vertreten. Die Forderung, für welche die Frauen vor allem Berücksichtigung verlangen, sind:

[Einiges auf dem Gebiete der Schulpolitik und der Sozialpolitik wird genannt.]

Da ein Parlament, welches aus einem auf Geld- und Geschlechtsvorrechten basierenden Wahlrecht hervorgegangen ist, niemals im Stande sein wird, die Forderungen der breiten Massen des Volkes zu erfüllen, so bezeichnet die Versammlung als Vorbedingung aller sozialen und kulturellen Reformen in Preussen und als wichtigste Forderung die Abschaffung des Drei-Klassen-Wahlsystems und Ersatz desselben durch das allgemeine, gleiche, direkte und geheime Wahlrecht für beide Geschlechter, sowie eine gerechte Wahlkreiseinteilung.“

The Church Consistory of Alsatia in its session of 7 Oct. at Strasburg pronounced itself with 13 to 9 votes for full suffrage of women in the church, President Curtius advocating it as a claim of justice.

(from: Zeitschrift f. Frauenstimmrecht.)

The N.W.S.A.'s resolution, that the National Council of Women of Germany should urge its affiliated societies to agitate for the municipal franchise for women, was presented to the Council meeting at Breslau by Miss v. Welzeck. She said, only when we have a great number of women with us, we can press our claim in a satisfactory way. „And therefore" she ended, „we have addressed ourselves to the National Council of German Women, that all its affiliated associations may come to support our action". The resolution was carried unanimously without any debate.

(from Centralblatt des Bundes deutscher Frauenvereine.)

Denmark. *)

At a by-election for Parliament that took place at Köge (one of our provincial towns) in October last, some women who are members of the **Landsforbund** spoke at the preparatory meeting, claiming votes for women. On the day of election both candidates were questioned by Miss E. Friedrichsen, the president of the local branch of the "Landsforbund", if they would vote for Women's Suffrage in case they were elected. The radical candidate, the Editor Bransager, who was afterwards elected, answered that he was *greatly in favor of Women's Suffrage*; the other candidate Mr. Just-Lund, who represented the Government party also answered that he sympathised with the idea of giving women the suffrage.

The meetings which the Copenhagen branch of the "Landsforbund" has arranged this autumn, and in which the different mayors of the City have given an account of the work in their respective departments, have been most instructive and much enjoyed by a numerous audience.

Copenhagen, Nov. 1908.

CLARA TYBJERG.

Bohemia.

Wie in der letzten Nummer bereits berichtet wurde, stehen wir vor einer Wahlreform, die je weiter, desto deutlicher eine Katastrophe für die Frauenrechte zu werden droht, obzwar konstatiert werden muss, dass die politische Aufklärung der Frauen sowie der Männer zusehend steigt.

Es ist bekannt, dass die Frauen in Böhmen bis jetzt das aktive Wahlrecht in die Gemeinden besitzen (mittelst Vollmacht), sowie sie im Lande sogar das passive Wahlrecht — nach den Gesetzen aus den Jahren 1861-1864 — haben!

Manche behaupten, dass damals die Absicht nicht vorlag, den Frauen das Wahlrecht zu geben, dass nur eine unklare Stilisierung des Gesetzes sie vom passiven Wahlrechte direkt nicht ausschloss und dass „die Frauen das Loch in dem Gesetz gefunden haben und hineingeschlüpft sind“. Mag es sein, wie es will: wir haben durch die Praxis unser Recht zur Geltung gebracht. Es ist sicher, dass auch in anderen Ländern solche Lücken in den Gesetzen aus jener Zeit waren, wo die Männer gar nicht daran dachten, dass die Frauen in das öffentliche, politische Leben eingreifen möchten. Mit der Zeit zeigte sich aber, dass die Frauen ein nicht passives und unschädliches Element sind, für das sie die Männer hielten; darum haben in den letzten Jahren durchweg alle Reformen der Wahlgesetze in den Ländern der österreich-ungarischen Monarchie den Frauen das Wahlrecht *direkt* abgesprochen oder es beschränkt, was die Frauen fast stillschweigend zugegeben haben. So geschah es in Mähren, in Niederoesterreich, im Wiener Centralparlament u. s. w.

Ich erwähne dies nur deshalb, weil dadurch die Situation der tschechischen Frauen stark geschwächt wurde, obzwar unsere Politiker, in unserem Lande, *nicht den Mut haben*, unsere Rechte anzugreifen: wir kämpfen so, dass sie uns zugestehen müssen, dass wir der Rechte, welche wir hatten, würdig sind, dass weder eine Ursache, noch eine rechtliche Begründung vorliegt, sie uns wieder zu entziehen.

*) Unfortunately we are obliged by lack of space to keep over the report from the N. D. W. S. A. as also Mme Mirovitch's letter on the exclusion of Women students from the universities in Russia.

EDITOR.

Aber die Wiener Regierung, die auch für unser Landtag die Gesetzentwürfe vorbereitet und die Gesetze sanktioniert, diese Regierung hat sich, nach der oben erwähnten Praxis, und in Unkenntnis unserer mächtigen Bewegung, unterstanden, unserem Landtage einen Gesetzentwurf vorzulegen, der *die Frauen grob beleidigt* hat.

Diese neue Gesetzentwürfe führt, ausser den bereits bestehenden 3 Kurien der Steuerzahler: des Grossgrundbesitzes, der Städte, Industrieorte und der Landesgemeinden, eine neue, *allgemeine* Kurie, *nur für die Männer*, ein, in der alle jene wahlberechtigt werden, die keine Steuer zahlen. Weiter: *Das Recht gewählt zu werden, giebt diese Regierungsvorlage ausdrücklich nur den Männern!* Die Frauen waren bisher *vollständig gleichberechtigt mit den Männern*, heute erweitert die Regierung das Männerwahlrecht, den Frauen aber nimmt sie ihr passives Wahlrecht weg! Nach der Publikation dieser Vorlage, welche die grösste Erbitterung in *allen* Volksschichten hervorgerufen hat (sie setzt manche Privilegien ein gegen den Willen des Volkes, welches nach dem allgemeinen, *gleichen* Wahlrechte ruft), wurden überall von verschiedenen Parteien Protestversammlungen abgehalten. *Wir, Frauen, waren die ersten zur Stelle!*

Schon den *zweiten* Tag nach der Veröffentlichung der Regierungsvorlage haben wir in allen Tagesblättern gegen dieselbe einen starken Protest erhoben; am *vierten* Tag wurde von uns eine Protestversammlung abgehalten, zu welcher, obwohl sie in grösster Eile einberufen wurde, Vertreterinnen verschiedener Frauenvereinigungen aus vielen Gegenden unseres Vaterlandes erschienen sind, von vielen Seiten während wenigstens telegrafische Proteste in diese entsendet wurden.

Wir sahen bei dieser Gelegenheit *zum erstenmale*, dass bei einer kräftigen Erschütterung *nur ein Ruf genügt*, um eine *wirkungsvolle Kundgebung* unserer Frauen zu erreichen.

Die Protestversammlung entsendete eine zwölfgliedrige Deputation in den Landtag, zu den Obmännern sämtlicher politischen Klubs, und ebenso zu dem Vertreter der Regierung mit einem schriftlichen Protest.

Ferner wurde in dieser Versammlung die *erste Strassenmanifestation* beschlossen, zu der es allerdings nicht kam, weil sie die Polizei mit ihrem Verbot vereitelte.

Schade, dass den dritten Tag nach der Versammlung das Parlament geschlossen wurde — denn so ist die Behandlung der Regierungsvorlage bis zum Frühjahr verlegt. Bis zur dieser Zeit müssen wir mächtige Kundgebungen vorbereiten, welche die Abstimmung eines so rückschrittlichen Gesetzes unmöglich machen werden.

PLAMÍNKOVÁ-STĚPÁNKOVÁ.

Prague, November 1908.

Italy.

Miss Erminia Montini from Orvieto sends us an account of the different employments of professional women in Italy extracted from official statistics of the year 1901. There were 62643 teachers, 183 telegraph-employees, 1000 telephone-operators and 1000 typists, all unmarried, 161 employees in administration and in public bodies, 1424 in private service, 13886 midwives and 170905 shop assistants. The number of unmarried women over 15 years old was in 1907 8.927.587. Miss Montini is making investigations on the different employments of Italian women in foreign countries.

M. G. K.