

JUS SUFFRAGII,

PUBLISHED BY THE
INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

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I have never regarded the desire (now as widespread as civilization itself) that woman should take her share in the duties and labors of the national life as in any sense a movement of the sexes against each other, but rather as a great integrative movement of the sexes toward each other.

OLIVE SCHREINER.



In necessariis unitas, in dubiis libertas, in omnibus autem caritas.

(Meldenius on ST. AUGUSTINE).

Blessed are the men and women of fine enthusiasm! A materialistic age cannot wither them, nor the world's habit of slamming doors in their faces rob them of their infinite courage.

ADDISON.

PRICE 2 DUTCH FLORINS PER YEAR.

Announcements.

The London Congress is over and was attended by a larger number of delegates and visitors than any held previously. To visitors and lookers-on it must have been far less interesting than some of the Congresses which preceded it, inasmuch as speeches and many of those little features which make programs interesting, had to be eliminated. It has been my lot to attend and to take part in a very great many Conventions, but I have never been present at any Convention in which so much business was despatched. The delegates are to be commended for the industry and devotion they displayed. From 9.30 every morning until 5 or 6 o'clock, with only an hour-and-a-half recess at noon, the Convention sat and patiently considered the business before it. It spent nearly three days on the revision of its constitution. The most vexed question which has ever come before the Alliance was included in the revision of this Constitution, and that was: How may a second National Society be affiliated with the Alliance? The determination of the Convention to maintain equal representation between the countries made the problem a difficult one. It is hoped that the provisions adopted will meet the requirements of the case; experience only can give the test. Rules of order which we believe are the first to have been formulated by an international body were adopted by the Convention. Officers were elected and an election always requires time and patience. The Badge adopted in Copenhagen was continued; a Flag, Banner, Hymn and Motto were also adopted. The Alliance is certainly now equipped with all the necessary machinery for work. It is the desire of the officers to extend the organisation as rapidly as possible into new and unorganised countries and to lend its assistance whenever possible to strengthen the work in the countries already organised.

New members. The Alliance had the pleasure of voting into its membership new national associations from Belgium and France, making 18 national associations now in the Alliance. A special amendment to the Constitution was offered and adopted which applies to the condition in Austria

where a law forbidding political organisation among women exists and therefore prevents the formation of a national association. This clause permits the States of Austria to become independently affiliated with the Alliance until such time as a national association can be formed. Under these provisions the States of Austria and Bohemia have become members; but the two together must be regarded as one nation, since it is the Empire of Austria alone which can grant them the suffrage which they ask. An application from Servia for affiliation is under consideration, if the Servian organisation meets the requirements of the new International Constitution, it will be welcomed into membership within a few weeks.

Admissions. It was decided to appoint a committee of three on "Admissions", of which the president shall be ex officio chairman. This committee will receive any applications for new membership and will pass upon their qualifications. The other members are Mrs. Anna Wicksell, Lund, Sweden; Dr. Käthe Schirmacher, 53 Rue Notre Dame des Champs, Paris.

Literature. In order to facilitate the exchange of suffrage literature and to acquaint the workers in each country with the work performed in every other country, it was agreed to request every national president to send a sample copy of all literature issued by her society to the presidents of every other country, provided the expense is not too heavy; in that case each president is requested to announce in "Jus Suffragii" each publication as it is issued, together with the price, so that other presidents can purchase it. If this arrangement is properly carried out each president will have on file the literature of every other country and will thus be able to know exactly what is being done in all parts of the world.

Flag. The flag adopted is one with colours of white and gold. Between two gold stripes the words "Jus Suffragii" are to be placed on a white ground. If any of the nations desire to use the flag it was agreed that in the place of "Jus Suffragii" the same meaning should be expressed in the language of the country.

Banner. So many changes were voted in reference to the banner that it is impossible to des-

cribe it at this time. After the selection had been made, the papers which covered the names of the artists were removed and it was found that both the flag and banner had been designed by Miss Branting, an artist of Stockholm, whose speciality is banners. The matter was therefore referred back to her with the request that she should rearrange the design.

Badge. It was agreed that all countries who find it convenient to do so should continue to purchase their badges of Mrs. Pedersen-Dan, whose contract would continue as before; but in those countries where for any reason the badge is not satisfactory, arrangements may be made for its manufacture by that country.

Motto. The following motto was adopted for the Alliance: "In essentials unity; in non-essentials liberty; in all things charity". It is a quotation from St. Augustine and has been used by many associations, among them the Victorian Woman Suffrage Association; it is especially applicable to an international organisation.

Hymn. Several poems were sent in for the competition to secure if possible a hymn of women's liberty. The following was selected as the most appropriate of those sent in. The committee making the recommendation said that there were others with more literary value as poems, but none which lent themselves so well to music as this one.

THE WOMEN'S BATTLE SONG.*)

Forward, sister women!
Onward ever more!
Bondage is behind you,
Freedom is before.
Raise the standard boldly
In the morning sun.
'Gainst a great injustice
See the fight begun.

Refrain:

Forward, forward, sisters!
Onward ever more!
Bondage is behind you,
Freedom is before.

See the women's army
Press their country's sod!
Sisters, you are treading
Where the heroes trod;
Let no fear withhold you,
No oppression stay.
Out of night and darkness
Onward into day!

Refrain.

Women's hands have laboured,
Giving love and life.
Yours is now to follow
In the glorious strife.
Lift the burden gladly,
Strong in right and youth.
Victors' wreaths must crown you.
Nought can conquer truth.

Refrain.

Cheltenham. THEODORA FLOWER MILLS.

*) The Editor of "Jus Suffragii" will be glad to be informed if translations appear, and also to print them here, if in the official languages.

The above poem may be sung to a tune called "Onward Christian Soldiers," but this tune did not please the Convention and some special music is desired for it. The International Alliance therefore invites the Presidents of all our countries to present this matter to the composers of their respective countries and invite them to enter a competition to provide music for the hymn.

We must have something inspiring and uplifting. It must be understood that the music will be a contribution and that the composer will receive no other reward than the gratitude of our Organisation.

Printed Report. The Report for the recent congress held in London will be ready for distribution by June 1st at the latest; copies of it may be ordered at 1/3d from Mrs. Stanton Coit, 30 Hyde Park Gate, W. The Constitution adopted at the convention, the Rules of Order, Resolutions, President's Address, record of the business meetings and reports of 22 countries will be found in the Report.

A survey of the reports of the past five years will prove that there has been an amazing progress in our movement within that time. It is difficult to predict what may happen in the coming four years when we hold our next official convention. An opportunity lies before us which has never existed before. Reform movements invariably move onward in waves of success followed by inevitable reaction. It is evidently now the time to increase our activities to the utmost before reaction sets in. If each member of the International Alliance does its work well within the next four years we shall be able to report there such progress and such achievements as will virtually assure us that the final victory for all our nations will be near at hand.

CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT.

RESOLUTIONS.

The Delegates from 21 countries assembled in London at the 1st Quinquennial Congress of the International Women's Suffrage Alliance, and representing the organized movement for the franchise throughout the world, unite in the following resolutions:

Resolved that we rejoice in the rapid growth of the Alliance from 8 national societies at its organization in 1904 to 21 societies in 1909.

Resolved that we record with pride two great victories achieved since our first meeting, held five years ago in Berlin; the granting by two European Countries of the Parliamentary Suffrage to women: Finland in 1906 conferred the Parliamentary vote upon women on the same terms as exercised by men; Norway in 1907 gave the Parliamentary franchise to women, but with a slight tax-paying qualification not required of men, which restriction the Government now proposes to remove, — and resolved that this Congress requests Fru Quam, Representative of the Norwegian Government, to convey to her Majesty the Queen of Norway, its deep appreciation of her gracious message and greeting expressing the hope that the work of the International Suffrage Alliance would be for the good of the home and the happiness of women, and further resolved that we express our firm conviction that this hope will be fully realized when all countries shall have followed the example of Norway in granting the franchise to their women.

Resolved that we congratulate the women of Denmark upon having received in 1908 the municipal franchise and that we congratulate Denmark upon the wise and zealous manner in which the women have exercised it, in the Elections of this year; 70 % of the women of Copenhagen having cast their vote, seven of their number having been elected to its Municipal Council and 7 % of the Municipal Officers elected throughout the Country having been women.

Resolved that we congratulate the women of Sweden that the tax payers' municipal suffrage, exercised by single women for nearly fifty years, has now been extended to married women, and that both have been made eligible to all offices for which they can vote.

Resolved that we congratulate the women of Iceland upon having also been made eligible for the Municipal Offices for which they have long had a vote, and upon the election of 4 of them to the Council of the capital Reykjavik, also upon the appointment of a new Minister of State who is an ardent advocate of Women's Suffrage; that a Petition for Women's Suffrage has been signed by a majority of all the women of Iceland and that their Parliament has promised to grant it in a very short time.

Resolved that we congratulate the women of France on the first recognition of their right to the Suffrage, they having been made eligible to sit on Boards of Trade and when thus elected, obtaining thereby the right to vote for Tribunals of Commerce.

Resolved that we congratulate the women of Germany that by a law securing the right to join and to form political organizations throughout the Empire, the women of all but three German States have, within a year, succeeded in organizing Women's Suffrage Societies and affiliating them to the National Union of Societies.

Resolved that we congratulate the women of Italy upon the success of their first Congress of Women where Women's Suffrage resolutions were carried with enthusiasm; and upon the cordial support given to this question at the recent Parliamentary elections. And we congratulate the Women of Italy, Switzerland, France, Belgium, Hungary and Servia on the formation of National Women's Suffrage Associations within the past 4 years, and we protest against the law in Austria which forbids the formation of such associations.

Resolved that we express our sympathy with the Russian Women, who, under such terrible conditions, have to fight for their own rights and for those of their whole people. We record with satisfaction that they were permitted, though under serious restrictions, to hold a large and successful Congress of Women in December 1908.

Resolved that we learn with pleasure that in the general movement towards freedom in Turkey, a demand has arisen from women for some voice in their Government, which we hope the young Turk party may grant.

Resolved that we congratulate the women of the Netherlands that in 1905 a State Committee of seven prominent men of all parties, having been appointed by the Government to consider the revision of the Constitution, by a vote of 6 to 1, recommended removing from it all obstacles to eligibility for women; that the Government soon after brought in a bill wherein the suffrage

and eligibility for women were made possible, which was not proceeded with only because the Government went out of power; and that it is undoubtedly only postponed.

Resolved that we congratulate the women of Bohemia on having made use of their old constitutional right, although limited by many qualifications, to vote in elections for some town-councils and for the Bohemian Diet, and also on having women candidates put up for the Diet in some constituencies, which we hope may result in their being elected.

Resolved that we congratulate the women of South Africa that in two States out of the three belonging to its National Suffrage Association—Cape Colony and the Transvaal—they have already received the municipal franchise and that a bill for this purpose passed the Parliament of Natal last year; that the political leaders are in sympathy with the movement and that there is ground for hope that the first Parliament of a United South Africa will grant to women the parliamentary vote.

Resolved that we remember with deep satisfaction that the women of New Zealand have now enjoyed full enfranchisement for 16 years and are continuing, by their wise and faithful performance of their duties as voters, to show the world how well fitted they are for the privilege and how much the Government has profited by their co-operation. Further, we rejoice in the completion of the enfranchisement of women in Australia by the granting of State Suffrage to them in Victoria last November. The women by their general and efficient use of the vote have so demonstrated their fitness for it that the experiment begun in 1894 has now culminated in the granting to them of every State and Federal Suffrage exercised by men. The fact that in a whole vast continent all citizens have an equal representation must encourage the women of other lands in their struggle to break down the unnatural barrier raised by unequal franchise laws.

Resolved that we rejoice that in the United States of America within the last few years there has been such an awakening of women to the necessity of the suffrage as never has been known; that they realize as never before the injustice of their disfranchisement in a nation founded on individual representation and that scores of their associations for other purposes are now demanding the suffrage; that within the past two months 1,000 representative women of New York appeared before their Legislature in behalf of the bill for woman suffrage, 1,600 in the State of Illinois and 2,000 in Massachusetts; that the organizations of working men, almost without exception, declare in favor of votes for women; that the press gives far more notice and approval of this subject than ever before; that in three states—Washington, Oregon and South Dakota—the question has been submitted to be voted on in 1910 and that all signs point to victory.

Resolved that we hear with pleasure of the recent action of the City Council of Toronto in petitioning the Dominion Parliament for the full enfranchisement of women and that on the day when the question was to be discussed 1,000 women went on a deputation to the Premier at the Parliament House to support the petition.

Resolved that we congratulate the women of Great Britain upon being made eligible in 1907

to serve as County and Borough Councillors and as Mayors and Provosts; and upon the election of one as Mayor, and a number as Councillors. We record with satisfaction that Women's Suffrage in Great Britain is now a question of practical politics as shewn by the interest evinced by electors in the subject, and by the organized opposition to the movement which marks the recognition of the advance that has been made.

The huge and continuous increase in the membership of all the Women's Suffrage organizations and the adherence to the movement of bodies of women engaged in various fields of work (representing nearly a million organized women) shew that women of education and of practical experience and responsibility in all classes of life are united in demanding a direct share in the government of their country.

Resolved that we cordially welcome the formation in various Countries of Men's Leagues for Woman Suffrage, actuated by a genuine love of justice and a purely unselfish purpose, thus for the first time bringing the force of direct political power into the service of our movement.

Resolved that we re-affirm the Resolution adopted at our Congress held in Amsterdam in 1908, namely: that the plain duty of women at the present hour is to secure the support and co-operation of all the forces favorable to woman suffrage, without question as to their political or religious affiliations; to avoid any entanglement with outside matters; to ask for the franchise on the same terms as it is now or may be exercised by men, leaving any required extension to be decided by men and women together.

Resolved that this Congress, remembering the lessons of history, urges the National Societies not to be betrayed into postponing their claim for the enfranchisement of women, for any other object, whether it be the further extension of the suffrage to men or the success of some political party.

Resolved that this Congress observes with heartfelt thankfulness the new spirit of comradeship and mutual understanding which has grown up, through this International Alliance, binding together the women of all nations and growing in strength with each successive Congress and that this spirit carried into political life will enable them, as voters, to contribute an element hitherto lacking, towards the peaceful solution of other great international problems.

The 275 copies left of the **Report of the Amsterdam Convention** in 1908 are to be ordered from *Miss Martina G. Kramers, 92 Kruiskade, Rotterdam* at **one Shilling** (= 0.90 Kr. = 1 Mk. = 1.25 frs.) each, during the course of six months. After that time they will be distributed to public libraries and will no more be available.

Samcelaninoj vekig'u!

Kvankam la pasinta kongreso de la "International Woman Suffrage Alliance" c'e St. James' Hall Londono estis sukcesplena, tamen s'ajnis al la c'eestantaj Esperantistinoj, ke okazis nenecesa tempoperdo pro la trilingva diskutado de la agenderoj.

Esperanto nun pli kaj pli farig'as la oficiala lingvo de internaciaj aferoj. G'ia uzado estas rekomendita au permesita jam de pli ol 26 Internaciaj Kongresoj okazintaj en diversaj lokoj dum

la lastaj ses jaroj, interalie tiu de la Franca Ligo de L'Instruado (Lyon 1902), de Automobilitismo (Parizo 1903), de la Dompentristoj (Grenoble 1904), tiu de l'Instruistoj (Liège 1905), c'e la Unua Internacia Kongreso de Komercaj Oficistoj (Londono 1906), c'e la 6a Universala Kongreso de la Paco (Munich 1907), k. t. p. G'in uzadas regule kiel interkomunikilon la tutmonda organizo de l'Kristanaj Celantoj, la diversnaciaj Kristanaj Unuig'o'j de Junaj Viroj k. t. p. Multaj geanoj de l'Internacia Societo de l'Ruga Kruco fervore propagandas g'ian utiligadon kaj en Augusto 1908 la Internacia Federacio de Dentistoj akceptis g'in kiel kongresan lingvon.

Ekzistas nun 129 specialistaj Esperantistaj, societoj: sciencistoj, instruistoj, kuracistoj, studentoj, liberpensuloj, katolikoj, socialistoj, framasonoj, juristoj, farmacistoj, maristoj, filatelistoj, abstinentuloj, k. t. p. Eldoniga's 15 specialistaj gazetoj, inter aliaj, Internacia Scienca Revuo, Voc'o de Kuracistoj, Internacia Pedagogia Revuo, Esperanto Ligilo (brajle por la blinduloj) Espero Pacifista (organo de la Esperanta Pacifista Societo) k. p. Kial do NI estu tiel malantaŭenpus'emaj? Kiamaniere la virinoj tra la mondo povas stari forte unuigitaj, ne komprenante unu la alian? Kiel movado povas esti vere internacia sen la forta ligilo de komuna lingvo? Kial la nunaj Esperantistinoj en la movado ne kunligu sin? Ne sole Esperanto estus por la virina movado granda tempos'parilo, sed ankaŭ atentigus al g'i pli grandan varbigotaron, c'ar ekzistas nun tra la mondo 1418 Esperantaj Societoj, interesigeblaj al nia afero kaj 83 Esperantaj Gazetoj, en kelkaj el kiuj troviĝ'us sendube loko por internacia afero kiel la nia.

Do tiuj kiuj interesig'as je la fono de Esperanta Ligo inter la "Jus Suffragii" anoj skribu au al la Redaktorino au al

(Fino) F. BARKER.

79 Rodenhurst Rd. Clapham Park,
London S. W., Anglujo.

Great Britain.

During the past month the **National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies** has taken part in two by elections, at Stratford-on-Avon and at Sheffield. At the latter place, Miss Fielden the newly appointed Organizer for Yorkshire succeeded in getting the largest Voters' petition signed as yet, having obtained 5000 signatures out of a possible 12000 voters.

In connection with the visit of the International Women's Suffrage Alliance the London W.S. Society organized a public meeting which was held in the Albert Hall and in connection with which a Pageant of Women's Trades and Professions took place. The Procession which, owing to the lateness of the hour, had to be lit by lanterns, looked very effective as it entered the large hall, representing as it did about 60 different Trades and Professions in which women are employed, and each group of workers bore aloft an emblem denoting the branch of work or profession to which they belonged.

As regards Special Efforts. We have received from Newnham College Cambridge, a liberal gift of £ 12 which we welcome most warmly.

And 13 principal towns in the Union have been asked to hold Public meetings the proceeds of which are to be devoted to the Special effort fund. London, May 6th, 1909. MARGERY I. CORBETT.

The Convention of the I. W. S. All. received the following report from the **Irish Women's Suffrage Association** presented by Mrs. Haslam: —

The Women's Suffrage movement in Ireland dates back from the year 1866, and the presentation in the House of Commons by John Stuart Mill of the famous Petition signed by the 1499 valiant Pioneers, of whom I had the privilege of being one. We, in Dublin, however, did not organize ourselves into a definite Association until ten years later, — that was in 1876; and from the first I became its Honorary Secretary. For many years, though we held Public Meetings and contributed our quota of Petitions to the House of Commons, we made little sensible progress. Ireland lies somewhat outside the mainstream of the European movement, and our women, in common with our men, have been chiefly interested in our own more special questions, of University and Intermediate Education, of Land-Law-Reform, of the Agitation for Home Rule and kindred subjects. Our Parliamentary Representatives, however, have always been in advance of their constituents; and whenever our Bill has come to a division in the House of Commons, a larger proportion of them have voted in its favor than have voted against it. In 1896 an Act was passed empowering our women, for the first time, to be elected as Poor Law Guardians; two years later, in 1898, our Local Government Act was passed, conferring upon our women all the available franchises at that time enjoyed by their English sisters, together with the Lodger and Service Franchises, not yet conferred upon them; the civic life of our women may be said to date from those years; and since then their political education has been advancing with rapid strides.

We have now a little over one hundred elected women Guardians, doing noble work in the service of our destitute poor, — which, considering all the circumstances of the two countries, is fully as large a proportion of women as are elected in England. Of these one hundred Guardians more than forty are District Councillors as well, and are gaining experience in both capacities; and of our Guardians generally I may add that, owing to their experience upon their respective Boards, a large proportion of them have become ardent suffragists. Our Royal University has been another powerful educational influence, and many of its Graduates too have joined our ranks. In justice to our women electors it must also be stated that they are beginning to take a keen interest in public affairs and are freely voting in the election of our various administrative Bodies. Another powerful stimulus to our movement has undoubtedly been the action of our militant sisters on this side the Channel; whether we approve of that action or not, it has brought the subject of our claims home to the consciousness of our women as nothing has ever done before. As the result of these various influences, two new Suffrage Associations have been recently started amongst us, and have been holding public meetings for the promotion of our cause from their different points of view. For the first time in our history, Ireland is becoming alive upon this question; our newspapers are discussing it with a gravity which they have not always heretofore displayed; and we have no fears as to the rapidly approaching triumph of our cause. But I must not conclude without expressing the delight which my husband and myself — as two of the oldest Suffragists in the kingdom, — feel at being present at this auspicious gathering of representatives of our

movement in all the leading countries of the world, a movement which, in our judgment, from whatever point of view we regard it, is one of the most transcendent in importance that our newly-born century stands face to face with.

On Friday the 16th the **Women's Social and Political Union** had the great pleasure of welcoming its Treasurer, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, on her release from Holloway Gaol, where she had been imprisoned for the preceding two months, in consequence of her action in leading a deputation to the Prime Minister earlier in the year. On the Friday morning, some hundreds of the members and friends of the Women's Social and Political Union, assembled outside the gates of Holloway Prison at 8 o'clock in the morning, and when Mrs. Pethick Lawrence came out, she was greeted with tremendous cheers. For several minutes she was unable to reach the motor car which was waiting for her, so enthusiastic were the people. Before leaving the vicinity of Holloway, however, she called for three cheers for the suffragette prisoners who still remained inside the gates. These were given with a hearty goodwill, and men and women streamed down to the Criterion Restaurant, Piccadilly, where a breakfast was to be held in honour of our Treasurer. The large breakfast room was soon filled to overflowing, and when Mrs. Pethick Lawrence arrived amid cheers and waving of flags and handkerchiefs, every available seat was filled, and there was not a spare inch between the chairs. There were present some 400 men and women, including many strangers, and notably 4 delegates from America to the International Congress, who recently climbed Mount Rainier, 14,444 feet high, in order to plant a "Votes for Women" flag on the top. The tables were decorated with purple and white flowers, and bands of purple ribbon. It was one of the most enthusiastic gatherings in the history of the Union.

The following day there was a great procession through the streets of London, starting from Marble Arch at 2.30 in the afternoon, and arriving at the Aldwych Theatre, where a mass meeting was held, at about a 5 o'clock. The principal feature of this procession (next of course to Mrs. Pethick Lawrence's carriage), was the member of the W.S.P.U. who impersonated Joan of Arc. In her shining armour, and mounted on a magnificent white horse, she made a picturesque and splendid figure. Inside the Aldwych Theatre itself the enthusiasm was indescribable.

Some days later we again assembled at Holloway gates and another welcome breakfast was held. At the evening reception were present very many of the delegates to the International Congress of Women. The previous day we had held a magnificent meeting in the Royal Albert Hall, which seats some 10,000 persons. The great hall was filled by an enthusiastic gathering mainly of women, and we had the very great pleasure of having with us the delegates to the International Congress of Women. The meeting was held in order to explain to these delegates the reason why we of the Women's Social and Political Union had seen fit to adopt the militant tactics, which have done so much to push the question of Votes for Women to the forefront of practical politics in England. Very many of the delegates came with us the following day to the gates of the prison, to welcome our comrades on their release.

We are now looking forward to the great Exhibition we are holding from May 13th to 26th, at the Prince's Skating Rink, Knightsbridge. There are to be many interesting features in this Exhibition, notably a polling booth, at which visitors will be able to record their opinions upon some question which is prominently before the public mind. Another interesting feature of the Exhibition will be a collection of photographs showing the history of the movement from the time when the militant tactics were inaugurated by Miss Christabel Pankhurst and Miss Annie Kenney in Manchester, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ years ago.

London, May 1909. THE SECRETARY W. S. & P. U.

Canada.

On March 24 one of the most numerous deputations that ever came to the Canadian Parliament, being composed of about a thousand men and women, presented a petition for woman suffrage to the Premier, Sir James Whitney. The reception room was entirely inadequate for the multitude, and the corridors overflowed with those who could not enter. Several cabinet ministers were left outside.

There were delegates from sixteen societies and the petition, which had 100,000 Ontario signatures, represented bodies numbering 16,000,000 people. Dr. Augusta Stowen Gullen, the President of the Canadian W. S. A. presented it, supported by Mrs. Denison, Mr. Hutcheon, Mrs. Miriam Browne, Mrs. Stephens, Mr. James L. Hughes and some other speakers who each advocated it. It read as follows:—

"To the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario, in Parliament assembled:

The petition of the undersigned of the Canadian Suffrage Association humbly sheweth:

That whereas all just governments derive their power from the consent of the governed;

And whereas woman is subject to the laws of the land, being punished for crime, paying taxes on property, and taking her part in the commercial and economic social structure;

Therefore, resolved, that woman should have the full franchise extended to her on the same basis as that of man.

Wherefore, your petitioners humbly pray that your honorable house may be pleased to pass an act fully enfranchising all women, whether married, widowed or spinster, on the same terms as man, and as in duty bound your petitioners will ever pray."

The Premier was very civil, but his reply was evasive. No man or woman had any real right to vote; it was only a means devised to express the views of the people; he trusted that another deputation would come again, and then more comfortable accommodation would be provided.

The accounts of the press were favorable, "The News", "The Toronto Daily Star" and "The Globe" devoted several columns to the deputation and gave good reports of the speeches, especially those of Dr. Stowe Gullen and Mr. Hughes.

On April 23rd a delegation from the Canadian W. S. A. appeared in the Provincial House in St. John N.B. The delegation was composed of Mrs. J. R. Calhoun and six other ladies. The account in the "Evening Times" is so ludicrous that it is impossible to make out from it what the fate of the suffrage-petition has been.

M. G. K.

Sweden.

The greatest progress hitherto attained for women's suffrage in our country was gained on the 24th of April this year.

The latest report from Sweden to "Jus Suffragii" had to communicate that "konstitutionsutskottet" the constitutional Committee of the Riksdag, in accordance with a bill of the Liberal Party had proposed both suffrage and eligibility for women on the same terms as for men. This resolution had been carried by the fraction of the Committee which consisted of members of the Second Chamber supported by two Committee members from the First Chamber—all the rest of these latter members voting against the bill, and one of the Committee who belonged to the First Chamber proposing suffrage but not eligibility for women. From this issue of the Committee's treatment of the question its destiny in the Riksdag could be foreseen: it would presumably be passed in the Second Chamber and rejected in the First.

But something quite unexpected arrived: The Committee proposal was adopted by the Second Chamber *without debate or voting*.

A year ago the same Chamber rejected a bill of the same extent by 110 votes against 93. After the decisive victory of the Left (liberals and socialists) at the election of 1908 it was to be expected that the issue would be another this year, both of the victorious parties having suffrage and eligibility for women on their program. But a success like this no one had dared to hope.

It would of course be quite wrong to conclude from this seeming unanimity that there would be no opposition to the enfranchisement of women in our Second Chamber. But the fact that this opposition not even made an attempt to vindicate its opinion against that of the majority, constitutes an important moral victory for the cause, showing how far it has advanced in the public conscience.

If the Second Chamber thus surpassed the expectations even of the most hopeful, the First Chamber was in no way a surprise: the bill so demonstratively passed by our House of Commons was rejected without voting in our House of Lords, and the above mentioned proposal of suffrage without eligibility only won the feeble support of 25 votes against 104. In the debate however the women had some champions—especially Mr. Säve, member of "Konstitutionsutskottet", made an eloquent appeal in their favour. And even most of the adversaries did not in principle refuse the claims of women, only they could not as yet decide: the question first must be thoroughly examined, the effect of the universal suffrage for men just adopted had to be tried, and the women had to practise their newly won larger competence on municipal lines, . . . and so forth.

Only a single speaker, Mr. Clason, was bold enough to oppose the female suffrage without any reserve. He alleged the relatively small number of women in the suffrage associations as a testimony that no real want of their missing rights is felt among women and he was convinced that the whole movement is ebbing both in Sweden and in all other countries.

If the Swedish women should need any incentive to new exertions, they could scarcely get a stronger one than this confessed hope from a First Chamber ultra that their movement may die away and the simultaneous acceptance *sans phrase* of their claims in the Second Chamber.

GERDA HELLBERG.

Karlstad, 30 April 1909.

The Netherlands.

The Men's League for Women Suffrage resolved to send during the approaching elections to all candidates for the Second Chamber of the States General the following questions:—

- 1) Are you prepared to advocate those changes in the State Constitution which aim at abolishing women's disability with respect to suffrage and eligibility for representative bodies?
- 2) Are you prepared to co-operate towards the introduction of amendments into the Constitution, the Electoral, the Provincial and the Municipal Laws, which aim at political equality for men and women as to suffrage and eligibility for representative bodies?

In case of a negative answer, the League requests to be informed of the motives, with a view to publishing them.

M. G. K.

The Dutch Bond for Woman Suffrage holds its Annual Meeting at Utrecht on May 23. The night before there will be a festive propaganda gathering where Catharine van Rennes, one of our founders, does us the honour to conduct the "Cantate" composed by her and executed the first afternoon of the Amsterdam Congress. A one act dramatic piece by Marcellus Emants, a well known Dutch author, specially written for, and given to the Bond, called "Awakened", will be played by some of our members. Suffragists of all countries are cordially invited to come that evening.

M. VAN EGGHEN—BOISSEVAIN.
Naarden, Holland, May 4th '09.

Finland.

The International Woman Suffrage Alliance Congress in London 1909 received the following report from Finsk Kvinnoförening:

"The Finnish Women's Association sends you a sisterly greeting. Since the great victory in 1906, when the women of our country were granted the political suffrage and eligibility, our association has been working to prepare women for their new rights. The first thing was to have the new election law explained and to arrange mock-elections so as to accustom women to all the details of the elections. This is not needed any more but, instead of that, lectures and meetings are held, in which women's duty to vote is emphasised. In the first election (1907) women voted in as great a number as men, but unfortunately we have had new elections every year and this has made the voters, both men and women, a little tired and uninterested. Still, this drawback is of a rather passing character and as a whole, women have been fulfilling their new duties well. In the first election 19 and in the second election 25 women were elected for Parliament. In the lists of candidates for the coming election (May 1-3rd) the number of women seems not to be smaller than hitherto.

Some foreign papers have reported that women's suffrage in Finland has been a failure. This is a mistake or facts are actually misinterpreted. There have of course been difficulties, because all reforms bring such with them, but they are chiefly due to our local political difficulties and are not results of woman suffrage as such. The best testimony that women's political rights have not been a failure is that the State church convocation meeting last November decided by a large major-

ity to recommend equal rights, equal suffrage and eligibility also in church matters, for men and women.

We are glad to be able to say, that the realization of our claims for women's suffrage has only strengthened our belief in our mutual great idea, although we know that we have still a vast field of work before us: we must work indefatigably to become worthy of our great rights.

May the words *duty* and *right* go hand in hand in all women's work for their enfranchisement. This is our greeting to the International Woman Suffrage Alliance. Thus conducted, this work will make "failure impossible".

ALEXANDRA GRIPENBERG, President.
Helsingfors, April 15th 1909.

Bohemia.

At the by-elections for the Bohemian Diet on May 4th a woman was again one of the candidates and received 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ % of all the votes cast.

The Bohemian Suffragists are on good terms with all political parties, and many of them take an active part in the different political organizations.

It seemed, that we should gain the co-operation of all democratic parties, which together would choose a woman as their delegate, the object of such a choice to be a demonstrative protest to the electoral laws which the Central Government at Vienna and the owners of large estates are endeavoring to force upon us.

But our former experience repeated itself. When the situation looked favorable, the party which is losing ground in Bohemia, desiring to obtain a seat in the Diet, took advantage of the situation and put up its own candidate, thus breaking the coalition of forces.

In consequence women had to fight alone against all. One party (representing the intelligent, progressive element) remained faithful, but it is very small, having but one representative among the 242.

Still, this year's campaign shows forth a number of favorable circumstances, although the opposing candidates were especially well qualified and represented interests, which concern the whole nation. There was an increased interest in the elections, an increased number of votes (214), and the party-antagonism was not directed against women, although there were some individuals who opposed us strongly.

We held twelve meetings, at which we discussed not only general topics and the significance of the sharing of women in legislation, but also special topics, which were to be discussed in the Diet; such as: The rights of the Diet in relation to the Central Parliament, the institution of schools, and social reform (care of the poor, the feeble-minded, the blind, the deaf etc.).

Besides this, the leaders attended the meetings of other candidates and defended their rights.

It is certain, that the meetings arranged by women had a more refined character and the discussions were more to the point, than at the meetings of the other candidates. With great pleasure, we received letters manifesting the interest of the I. W. S. A. Congress at London. They awakened much interest and encouraged us for further work. We express our sincere thanks for the same.

The idea of woman's suffrage made a decided step forward by the candidature mentioned above, which required so much work and energy that we were not able to spare a delegate to the London Convention.

As no candidate obtained a sufficient number of votes to be elected, we enter the second con-

test which is on May 11th, and are working again to unite the different parties.

F. PLAMINKOVÁ,
(per J. F. Siskovská).

Prague, May 7 1909.

Norway.

The burning question of to-day is that of separate protective legislation for women. The social committee of the Storting has proposed a revision of the factory law. The radical majority of the committee is of opinion that the separate protection of children and „young persons” should be extended to adult women in some degree. It therefore proposes in § 23 to forbid women’s night-work. In the explanatory remarks the committee says: “The lawmaker cannot by abstract theories be prevented from taking measures to protect woman and with her the coming generations”. The conservative minority is against any separate protection for adult women—except for those who are to become mothers. The minority holds that restrictions in women’s work will throw most of the working women out of the labour market.

The unpolitical women’s organisations—in all of which unmarried women from the upper-classes are the leaders—have taken a decided stand against separate protective laws for women. It is, however, very remarkable that some labour women are of a quite different opinion. On the 3rd of May the women’s organisation of the Labour Party had arranged a monster meeting of labour women under the presidency of Mrs. Marta Tynaes, member of the Town-council of Kristiania. A resolution in favour of separate protective laws was carried with five dissenting votes.

Which standpoint the Storting will take is impossible to say.

The National Woman Suffrage Association (L. K. S. F.) has revised its laws. According to the new laws a national convention was held on the 15th of April. Mrs. F. M. Qvam was reelected as president; as vice-president was elected Mrs. Louise Keilhau. Some days after Mrs. Qvam was appointed as the representative of the Norwegian government at the London Congress.

None of the Norwegian journals sent special correspondents to the London Congress. The principal newspapers, however, have printed more or less extensive letters about the Congress from their ordinary London correspondents. Some of them have also published interesting clippings from English newspapers, especially from the “Daily News”. On the whole I have the impression that the press has treated the Congress rather satisfactorily.

WILHELM KEILHAU.
Kristiania, 6 of May 1909.

Fru F. M. Qvam brought the London Convention the following greeting from **Norske Kvinders Sanitetsforening** to the Intern. W. S. Alliance:—

“I have to bring you the fraternal greeting of the Norwegian Women’s Ambulance and Nursery Association and to thank you for the invitation to our association to take part in this conference.

The aim of our association is to relieve those evils which war and disease and other misfortunes bring upon mankind. To this end we prepare materials for field-hospitals, such as f. i. stretchers, dressing, clothes for invalids, etc.; we undertake the training of nurses to assist the ambulance corps in case of war, and in times of peace to assist in the hospitals and also to act as private

nurses in the country districts and in the towns, under appointment by the various branches of our association.

We build homes for the consumptive, distribute milk to them etc. etc. and in every way work with all our strength against the great evil of our times—tuberculosis.

Our association has now about ten thousand members from all parts of the country with branches in the various towns and districts. These branches are entirely managed by women.

In this way the women are trained to rely upon themselves, so that they, without the guidance of men, may take part as leaders and administrators in social work.

Our association has thus become a pioneer in the great movement for the enfranchisement of women, so that a branch of the National Woman Suffrage Association has always been established, wherever a branch of the Ambulance Association had been working for some years.

The Norwegian Women’s Ambulance and Nursing Association sends the Alliance their heartiest greetings and warmest wishes for success in all its work. We wish, that you in the future may gain at least *one* great victory every year, by adding one more country to the list of those, which have given women the suffrage.

Russia.

The **Women’s Progressive Party Club** asked the associations of inhabitants and electors of different quarters of St. Petersburg to declare themselves for equal municipal votes for women as for men. It received from the Association of indwellers and electors of Old Petersburg the answer that its committee felt much sympathy for the question and would deliberate on all the details of it at the same time as it would deliberate on the scheme of a new municipal Constitution proposed to the Douma. The committee of the Association of the quarter of Moscow expressed also its sympathy with the principle of woman suffrage; and having organized a commission in order to examine the new scheme of Municipal Constitution, committed to it the request of the Club. London, April 1909.

Mme. DE WACHTINE.

Switzerland.

On Dec. 10, 1907 the Legislative Assembly of the Swiss Republic adopted definitely the Federal Civil Code, which, from Jan. 1st 1912, is to take the place of the thirty different codes now in use in our country.

On this occasion our deputies in Parliament resolved that a copy of the new Code should be given gratis to every Swiss citizen.

The Committee of the National Council of Women of Switzerland then approached the Federal Council, asking that the volume should also be distributed to widows and spinsters who might desire to have it.

This request was vain.

We had not yet got over the disappointment of this refusal, when, a short time ago, our Executive Body came back upon its former decision and consented to gratify our wish.

So a certain number of copies of our Civil Code will be placed at the disposal of the Committee of the National Council, and all those among us who wish to have it can apply to the National Council.

LUCY DUTOIT,
Lausanne, April 30, '09. secr. W. S. A. of Vaud.