

JUS SUFFRAGII,

PUBLISHED BY THE
INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

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

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Dans la République, où le sexe ne peut pas plus conférer de privilèges que la couleur des cheveux ou de la peau, exclure les femmes — qui ont autant d'intérêts à sauvegarder que les hommes — des assemblées administratives et législatives où tout se discute, se règle, se résout, c'est d'avance les frustrer de toute justice, les spolier de tous avantages.

HUBERTINE AUCLERT.



Measure well the forces which are at work in our age, mark the strength of the men and women who are dissatisfied with the present, weigh carefully the enthusiasm of the teachers of our new morality, socialistic and sexual, then you will not class them as dreamers only.

KARL PEARSON.

PRICE 2 DUTCH FLORINS PER YEAR.

HURRAH FOR NORWAY!!!

Editorial Announcements.

Readers who can spare **back numbers** of this paper—especially Nos. 1—8, when we only printed 500—are urgently requested to send them to me. I often, hear from subscribers, (students or reading-rooms wishing to keep the whole set on file) who desire to have our "Jus Suffragii" from the starting and to pay for the whole year; but then my provision of back numbers is exhausted and I am unable to comply with their request. Now those readers who, after having taken note of the contents, are willing to part with their bulletin for the benefit of these clubs and earnest workers, might send their copy to me and help me not to disappoint those serious suffragists who wish to keep "Jus Suffragii" as a sort of historical record.

THE EDITOR.

List of Woman Suffrage Papers in different countries, with address and price per annum.

U.S. America, *The Woman's Journal*, \$ 1,50, 3 Park Street, Boston.

—, *Progress*, N.A.W.S.A. Headquarters, Warren, Ohio, 25 cents.

—, *The Woman's Tribune*, \$ 1,00, Clara Bewick Colby, Portland Ore.

Belgium, *De Stem der Vrouw*, 3/4 franc, Ons Huis, Gent.

France, *Le Journal des Femmes*, 5 francs, 31 rue Francoeur, Paris.

Denmark, *Kvindestemmerets blade*, 2 Kroner, 34 Bredgade Kopenhagen.

—, *Kvinden og Samfundet*, 3,10 Kroner, Kongens Lyngby 5.

Finland, *Nutid*, 6 Mark, 21 Alexandersgatan, Helsingfors.

Netherlands, *Maandblad voor Vrouwenkiesrecht*, f 1.—, 43 Linnaeusstraat, Ameterdam.

Norway, *Nylaende*, 4,70 Kroner, 3 Edvard Stormsgade, Kristiania.

Sweden, *Dagny*, 5 Kroner, 54 Drottninggatan, Stockholm.

—, *Morgonbris*, 50 Öre, Folkets Hus, Stockholm.

—, *Svenska Folket*, 2 Kroner, 36 Vasagatan, Stockholm.

Germany, *Zeitschrift für Frauenstimmrecht*, 2 Mark, Post Ebenhausen, Ober Bayern.

Hungary, *A Nő és a Társadalom*, 41 Nefelejts u. Budapest VII.

Austria, *Der Bund*, 2 Kronen, 7 Rochusgasse, Wien III.

Iceland, *Kvennabladid*, 2 Kroner, Briet Bjarnehé-dinsdóttir, Reikjavik.

Italy, *La Vita*, 37 Lire, 87 Via S. Claudio, Roma.

Great Britain, *Women's Franchise*, weekly 1 d. 13 Bream's Buildings Chancery Lane, London.

—, *The Tribune*, daily 1 d., Bouverie Street, Fleet Street, London E.C.

Switzerland, *Frauenbestrebungen*, 3,10 frs., Zürichbergstr. 10, Zürich V.

Poland, *Ster*, Boduena 2, Warsaw.

DEAR CORRESPONDENTS AND READERS!

Now that we are coming near to the close of Jus Suffragii's first year, I have to give you some news on the paper's circulation, and I want to ask your advice. Of course the 7 Officers and 38 Honorary Associates of the I. W. S. Alliance are entitled to receive its organ gratis, and the 20 editors of suffrage-reviews who get it may arrange to exchange the papers; but tell me, what is the politest and most efficacious way of giving the rest of the subscribers to understand that they are expected to pay and that I cannot possibly let the year begin on her own date for each reader, but have to fix it on September?

Here follows the number of copies sent to each country and the number of subscription-fees which I have received from each:

Australia 9 copies, 3 paid; Canada 5 copies, 4 paid; Denmark 36 copies, 20 paid; Germany 18 copies, 5 paid; Great Britain 82 copies, 54 paid; Holland 60 copies, 21 paid; Hungary 18 copies, 15 paid; Italy 15 copies, 11 paid; Norway 29 copies, 12 paid; Russia 20 copies, 20 paid; Sweden 71 copies, 66 paid; United States 75 copies, 59 paid; France 4 copies, 1 paid; Switzerland 1 copy, 0 paid; Belgium 6 copies, 1 paid; Finland 5 copies, 4 paid; Austria 7 copies, 6 paid; Servia 2 copies, 0 paid; Bulgaria 2 copies, 2 paid.

Now what can we do to make each country as exact in its payment as Russia and Bulgaria are? Shall I put a slip of coloured paper in the next number to remind the neglectful of their obligation, or shall I send them a post-receipt, which will cost extra-postage?

You see, provided that all our subscribers pay, we can continue in this form; but I have always to shorten letters and cut down paragraphs from newspapers which would be of interest; and so it is not improbable that our next congress may express a wish to enlarge the size of the bulletin. In order to meet that wish, it would be necessary to enlarge the circulation. This might be done most effectually if our friends would insert in different women's papers a paragraph describing "Jus Suffragii's" scope, as the Woman's Journal, Pesti Naplo and Kvinden og Samfundet did. Something like this:

"Jus Suffragii", the monthly organ of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, gives a collection of facts concerning the woman suffrage movement in different countries. Avoiding all polemics and having no room for the announcement of literature, it is limited to reports of laws and resolutions passed by Governments and suffrage-organizations, and to very concise reviews of the situation given by correspondents from each country. Suffragists wishing to subscribe can address themselves to the editor, Martina G. Kramers, 92 Kruiskade, Rotterdam Holland. The price per year is 2 Dutch florins = 0.82 \$ = 3 Sh. 6 d. = 3 Sk. Kroner = 4.25 francs."

May I again request you to send for the August number news which you know to be true and interesting; for we have no summer-holidays, seeing that Australia, our auxiliary in the southern hemisphere, is in the middle of its winter, now that we are enjoying our summer. If you send printed matter, please mark the important passages for me, especially in those cases where I am not familiar with the language. I must own that in the Skandinavian languages I am not yet proof again mistakes; so f. i. I took Fru Qvam's notes from the Copenhagen congress for a translation of my own; fortunately the author is kind enough not to bear me a grudge on that score. In case you send a report in English, may I then ask you to give the titles of dignitaries and governing bodies in parenthesis in the original language; that may help to avoid errors. Let me end by asking you to send some quotations from the works of your own friends and co-workers to adorn our title-page.

Believe me faithfully yours,
Rotterdam, 8 July 1907. MARTINA G. KRAMERS.

P.S. The report from the United States was not received in time this month, and unfortunately the limited space does not allow me to glean on my own authority the most important facts from the American papers which are kindly sent me.

The promised report from Finland has not reached me in time neither. ED.

Norway.

On the 14th of June *Aftenposten* contained the following news:—

—"The result of the vote in the Storting (Parliament) has this day opened the door for about 300,000 new electors.

Every single woman over 25 years old who, in the towns, pays taxes for an income of 400 Kr., or, in the country, for 300 Kr., has to day received the franchise for parliamentary elections. The same conditions prevail for married women over 25 years old, living in entire or partial community with a husband who pays the aforesaid taxes. From this results that those women who fulfill the above conditions are at the same time *eligible*, and consequently, after the next elections, we shall probably also have women deputies in the Storting.

We never advocated this reform, and to-day's debate in the Storting has not altered our opinion. Yet we will express our hope that the reform may not bring disappointment to its ardent advocates, and that the new element for which the doors have been opened to-day may not, in a greater measure than is already the case in our country, consume sympathy, time and energy."

If the hostile press thus expresses its feelings, the reader may imagine the joy and exultation of our friends the suffragists.

Fru Qvam, the President of the N. W. S. A. (L. K. S. F.) and Gina Krog, the President of the N. C. W., were present when the Storting passed the new law. "I am glad that I have lived to see this day after 40 years' toil," said the former. "Yes I rejoice over what we have just gained,—but, added she, we must continue our work."

And Gina Krog begins the June-number of her review *Nylænde* with an utterance of her grateful feelings:—

—"Political Suffrage for Women! Thanks!
To-day, 14 June, at two o'clock, Norway's Parliament passed the law which gives political suffrage to women on the same terms as they now possess the municipal vote: 96 deputies voted for and 25 against.

Here in our country and the neighbouring lands the news has already been spread; but we have the joy of bringing the first glad tidings to many other countries and of announcing them *our* victory, which is at the same time *their* victory.

Thanks, hearty thanks from the women to every one of the 96 members of the Norwegian Parliament who helped to carry the great reform!"

The N. W. S. A. of Norway has always stood for universal suffrage for *all* men and women equally. This has not been achieved, a proposal to that effect having been defeated in the Storting by 73 to 48 votes; nevertheless the Association felt that it had great reason to rejoice, and on 17 June it held a meeting, in which Mrs. Hedvig Rosing addressed heart-felt thanks to the President, Mrs. Qvam, for her untiring work for the cause, her perseverance and patience. Mrs. Rosing also recalled gratefully the late Minister Mr. Qvam, who was the first man that brought forward the claim of woman suffrage, and Miss Dr. Louise Qvam for her valuable assistance in the suffrage work.

The National Council had its annual meeting from 3—6 July. Both these national associations of women will undergo a great change, now that with the 470,858 male electors ± 300,000 women will have their say in public affairs. But certainly the International Council of women as well as our International Woman Suffrage alliance have every reason to hope that the Norwegian women will

not dissolve their associations and always continue to take an active part in the international women's movement.

The President of the Norwegian W. S. A. (L. K. G. F.) has published the following letter in the newspapers:

"Finding it impossible to send personal thanks to the many friends who, after the law accorded parliamentary suffrage to women, have shown me their valued attention, I request them each and all to accept my thanks for telegrams and letters, for congratulations and floral tributes, for their presence at the station and the presentation of the international Woman Suffrage badge in gold.

Receive my hearty thanks! It has been a great joy to me to take all this for a sign of women's awakening to a new radiant day.

Gjaevran, 24 June 1907.

F. M. QVAM.

Sweden.

The victory in Norway cannot fail to have its effect on the neighbouring countries, and so we are confident that the strenuous work of the N. W. S. A. in Sweden will have the deserved success next year. The attitude of press and political parties seems to point that way. *Mitt Hem* of 15 June brings an article by Signe Bergman on the aim of woman suffrage, the editor having asked her an answer to the question, what will women do with their votes? Miss B. thinks that the indirect influence of the fact that women are recognized as citizens, will prove even stronger on their position in society than the direct reforms to which they will devote their immediate efforts. For by leaving women outside of the current of social progress and thought, we create a heavy drag in the world's onmarch. Besides it is generally recognized that the interests of each social group are best served by those who belong themselves to that group. And then the ballot in the hands of women will oblige parents to give a more careful education to their daughters; once this right obtained, the rest may safely be left to the women themselves. Finland gives us the example of strong and speedy awakening of the sense of responsibility in women.

It is a pleasure to see that *Morgonbris*, the officially recognized organ of the Socialdemocratic women in Sweden, devotes much space to woman suffrage and brings an article from the Secretary of the N. W. S. A. (Miss Bergman) on the actual position of the question. In most other countries—as our readers know—there is more antagonism between the socialists as a political party, and the women who have organized to conquer their rights as human beings and especially as citizens.

Miss Bergman shows how the attitude of the Swedish government has allowed Norway to precede Sweden in following Finland's great example. The principal question is now whether in 1908 women's suffrage shall be treated in the Parliament equally with men's. In fact this will depend on the next move to be made by the parties on the political chess-board, and for outsiders—often even for the players themselves—this is not easy to foresee. Much will also depend on the women themselves and the strength of their agitation during the next months. The meeting in Stockholm on 5 May was a great success, it is true, but it may not be followed by a period of inactivity; and people must see that the demand of the franchise for women is really living in the nation's heart. "We should all unite to urge on

1908's Riksdag the necessity of dealing with our demand, and universal suffrage for men and women should be our common war-cry."

Whilst the secretary of the Swedish W. S. A. wrote for these reviews, the president, Miss Anna Whitlock, did her best to gain a favourable ear in the daily press. She succeeded, as was to be expected, now that the mass-petition of the women for the ballot has stirred up the whole country. *Dagens Nyheter*, the principal organ of the federated liberal parties, gave three articles from Miss Whitlock, the first on 28 June. In it the author rejoices over the victory of the Norwegian women, but regrets that her own country should not have been the first to follow Finland's example. Have the Swedish men less confidence in their women-folk than the Norwegians, or was not the mass-petition with 142,128 names presented to the Riksdag in Febr. a sufficient refutation of the oft-repeated saying that women are indifferent in this matter? Surely the literary products of Björnson and Ibsen in the one and of Strindberg in the other country cannot be supposed to dominate public opinion to that extent. Besides there is now a visible change in the "tactics" of the political fractions, and surely the women of Sweden have reason to hope that the Parliament will recognize their just claims in 1908.

The same paper brings other essays from Miss Whitlock on 6 and 8 July, in which she explains along what lines the women advance to obtain the recognition of their claim to the ballot. She acknowledges gratefully that *Dagens Nyheter* has declared it impossible to raise any theoretically sound objection against woman suffrage, and then she proceeds to show with the utmost precision and persuasive cogency the why and wherefore of a vast organization of women for the purpose of claiming their citizenship, irrespective of political or religious convictions. "Moreover I do not in any way pretend that Swedish women in general have a strong interest in political party-questions. It would be strange if they had, for firstly our nation is little apt to go in for politics very much, and then as a matter of course they would be the inferiors of the men in knowledge in this respect, having lacked all power and influence in the state until this day. It is mostly questions of a social and educational nature that occupy the women's mind. It is highly improbable that women will found a new political fraction of their own, once that they have got the franchise. We may expect them to enter the different parties, but to join forces whenever the interests of humanity are at stake; that is what experience shows in Australia and America".

Another essay from Miss Witlock's hand, treating the organisation and constitution of the N. W. S. A. and the great work which it accomplished by getting up and presenting the monster-petition in February, and showing that the Association's aim is a neutral one outside of all party-tactics, has been published in the form of a leaflet by an association of students; it was inserted into 26 provincial papers, and by that means was brought before 100,000 readers, whose thoughts and comments cannot fail to help the cause forward in the whole country.

Besides the N. W. S. A. does not for a moment flag in activity, sending pamphlets to all the numerous summer-meetings which are being held (teetotallers, young men and women teachers, etc.) and organising big meetings over the whole country, in order to force the Riksdag to give attention to the women's demand in 1908.

Nor is the international badge forgotten. In *Idun* of 20 June Ann Margret Holmgren recommends the readers to wear it as a sign of mutual recognition and a token of remembrance. The cheap copper badge is within the reach of many small purses, and may remind the wearers that our final aim is: votes for *all* women, rich and poor alike.

Great Britain.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies will, in October next, issue the first number of a monthly paper, entitled, "Women's Suffrage", the official organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. The paper will be sixteen pp. quarto, with cover, and will occasionally be illustrated. The price will be 1d. (or 1s. 6d. a year, post free).

Month by month signed articles will appear from well-known pens on important aspects of the question; attacks upon the cause in the daily and weekly Press, as well as arguments brought forward by convinced opponents, will be dealt with; inaccurate and misleading statements will be corrected, and the news of the month fully recorded.

Articles by residents in other countries will be included, and especially from those places where the franchise has already been granted.

Information will be given as to the bearing of laws and customs upon the position of women, and current literature and pamphlets dealing with Women's Suffrage will be reviewed.

In the months of July, August, and September, supporters will not be without news, as the Athenaeum Press, 13, Bream's Buildings, Chancery Lane, E. C., will issue a weekly paper during that time, to which the National Union, as well as the Men's League for Women's Suffrage and the Women's Social and Political Union, will contribute pages.

The forthcoming Quarterly Meeting of Council is to be held at Cambridge on July 9th. The Cambridge Society is holding a large public meeting overnight, at which the speakers, among others, will be Mr. Cameron Corbett, M. P., Mrs. Philip Snowden, the Hon. Bertrand Russell and Miss Frances Sterling.

It is hoped that there may be a large attendance of the general public at this meeting as well as of representatives attending the Council. That body begins its labours at 10.30 A.M. the next morning and will probably sit all day, as the Agenda is a long and interesting one.

The Council will be entertained to a Garden Party at the close of its deliberations by Mrs. Whitehead, and there will be a reception in the evening in Magdalene Hall and Grounds given by Mrs. Ramsay and the Cambridge Committee.

The Union, through the generosity of one of its members, has been enabled to offer a prize of six guineas for the best poster in favour of Women's Suffrage, for use at Parliamentary Elections. To make the competition still more interesting, the first prize (open to men as well as women) will be supplemented by a second prize of 5. for the best design sent in by a woman, offered by another benefactor.

Designs must measure 30 in. by 40 in. or 20 in. by 30 in., must be suitable for reproduction, and must not contain more than two colours, besides

black and white. They should be sent in not later than *September 15th next*, addressed to—The Secretary, National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, 25, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

A nom-de-plume should be written on the back of each drawing (*not* the real name of the artist). The full name and postal address of the artist should be enclosed in a separate envelope, on the outside of which the nom-de-plume should appear.

The Union will reserve to itself the right to reproduce the prize drawings, and to exhibit any or all of the drawings for any time or in any place that shall seem likely to further the interests of the Suffrage Cause. Should circumstances permit of the reproduction of drawings other than the prize ones, the Union would make direct arrangements with the artists.

There will be a further competition—first prize 2l., second prize 1l.—for the best design for a picture post-card in favour of Women's Suffrage. Details of this competition will be announced later, but the same date is fixed for sending-in day (*i.e.*, September 15th).

The exhibition of the drawings for these competitions should be one of the attractions of the autumn.

The Artists' League for Women's Suffrage (which has already done yeoman's service to the Union by contributing many spirited posters, as well as devoted canvassers, for the Wimbledon bye-election) will doubtless take an active part in the competitions, in which it has already manifested a very marked degree of interest and approval.

One of the subjects to be discussed by the Council of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies at Cambridge on the 9th of this month is the extraordinary result of the Worcester Election Petition, as it affects the women of that city. The Commission of Inquiry, having obtained proofs of cases of bribery and illegal treating, and having found that corrupt practices had obtained at the last Parliamentary election, it followed that the cost of the Commission and law charges must be found by the city—and for this purpose a rate of 3½d. has been laid by the overseers of Worcester, not on the Parliamentary voters alone, who are responsible for misdeeds at a Parliamentary election, but on the whole of the ratepayers on the municipal register, which includes the women who are by law disqualified for the Parliamentary franchise. It is a clever device, but surely adds insult to injury, to shift the responsibility for payment from the Parliamentary to the Municipal Register—to say in the same breath to the women "You shall not have the Parliamentary vote, but you shall pay for our abuse of it!"

It is convenient, but it hardly looks honest to pick the woman's pocket to pay the man's debt, but it is doubtless the law of the strongest and might is still right in England.

Taking the proportion which has been found to prevail in very varied constituencies throughout the country, from one-sixth to one-fifth of the voters on the Municipal Register will be women, and one-sixth of the rate for Parliamentary corrupt practices falls on the women of Worcester. It is a striking commentary on the chivalry of men, of which we hear so much and find so little, that not one man's voice was raised in the Town Council to protect their women citizens from this unjust rate. It is a striking comment on law and

justice that women can be at the same time deprived of the privilege of the vote, and be held responsible for the abuse of it; compelled to suffer a fine earned by men, laid by men, levied by men, and still to believe that the scales of justice are held true.

We shall again be told no doubt that it is purely "incidental," that all the Parliamentary voters were not corrupt either, yet have to pay, but that argument is too thin. Women are a class set apart and outside the sphere of Parliamentary elections, protected, for their good we understand, from the turmoil and debasing influence of the strife of party politics. They can hardly be both outside and inside the sphere at once—they are either protected or unprotected from the strife. The men cannot have it both ways. We have always held that they were unprotected from the strife, and should be able to protect themselves by the vote,—this rate appears to justify that opinion.

The protest of the women of Worcester should be raised at once against this outrage on justice; if only for the future security of all women ratepayers, the women of England must stand shoulder to shoulder with them in a refusal to bear a rate so callously levied on the voteless to relieve the corrupt voter.

Under the auspices of the Bristol and West of England Society for Women's Suffrage (a branch of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies) and Women's Reform Union, a most successful Women's Suffrage campaign was recently held in the neighbourhood. The Bristol Society for Women's Suffrage is one of the oldest in England, and numbers among its members some of the pioneers of the movement. The whole campaign was carefully thought out, and reflects great credit on the local Suffrage organization. It was preceded by a series of drawing-room meetings, when short speeches were given, enlivened by music. These meetings were well attended, and had the desired effect of rousing local interest in the forthcoming crusade.

During the month of May the membership of the Central Society (the London branch of the Union) was increased by fifty-one new annual subscribers.

The Executive Committee of the Central Society has decided to hold a series of social gatherings next autumn in their offices at 25, Victoria Street. All members, workers, and sympathisers will be heartily welcomed at these meetings.

Since the 1st of May, eleven drawing-room meetings have been organised by Local Committees of the Central Society for Women's Suffrage in the following districts of the metropolitan area:—Campden Hill, Chelsea, North Kensington, South Kensington, Marylebone, South Paddington, St. Pancras, Wandsworth, and Westminster. These meetings have been well attended and have resulted in many offers of help and many new members.

The veteran workers for Women's Suffrage, Mr. and Mrs. Haslam, have been visiting London, and were amongst the speakers at a very successful meeting held under the auspices of the Local Committee of the Central Society at Wandsworth, by kind permission of Mrs. Shillington.

M. G. FAWCETT, President.
F. HARDCASTLE,) Hon.
F. STERLING,) Secretaries.

On Wednesday 12 June the House of Lords adopted the second reading of the bill qualifying women to sit on County and Borough Councils by 111 to 33 votes. Among those members who voted in favour, some declared that they would be against a third reading or suggest alterations when the matter would have reached that stage; but there was a general feeling that the country should not be deprived of the valuable services of women in the said Councils, although this would furnish a new argument for advocates of women's parliamentary vote at the same time. In July the House postponed the Committee-stage of the said bill.

The Women's Social & Political Union, as reported last month took an active part in opposing the Liberal Candidate in the Rutland Bye-election. The work was very energetically carried on and was most successful. Indeed, to quote the Nottingham Guardian of the 12th of June, "the Suffragists campaign undoubtedly had a markedly adverse effect on Mr. Lyon's poll." The result of the polling was the defeat of Mr. Lyon, the Government candidate by 851 votes out of a total of 3575.

A highly successful reception was held and a presentation made in London on the 17th of June to Mrs. Theresa-Billington-Greig on the occasion of her recent marriage. Her new home being in Glasgow she is devoting herself to the development to the movement in Scotland.

On the occasion of the debate in the House of Commons on the House of Lords' veto a handbill was prepared and widely circulated. The following extract gives the gist of this manifesto:

"The Prime Minister says that he intends that the power of the House of Lords shall be so restricted as to secure that the will of the people, as expressed by the elected representatives in the House of Commons, shall prevail.

"We say that so long as women are denied the vote, *the House of Commons does not represent the will of the people*, and we demand that the first constitutional change to be made shall be the *enfranchisement of the women of the country*.

"We women say to the Government that, in order to give effect to the will of the people the parliamentary franchise must be so reformed that the House of Commons shall represent not the men alone, but the women of the country also!"

Some 30 women distributed these handbills outside the House on the three days of the debate.

During the latter part of June a particularly active election campaign was conducted at Jarrow and its success in reducing the votes of the Government's late candidate from 8047 votes to 3474 cast in favour of the Government candidate at this Bye-election, has once more triumphantly vindicated the Bye-election policy of the W. S. & P. U. The campaign was conducted under the untiring leadership of Mrs. Pankhurst who had the assistance of some 20 special workers as well as a great number of local supporters. The

work culminated on the 4th of July in a procession of women through the streets of Jarrow, in which several thousands took part, many coming from outlying districts to demonstrate their sympathy with the movement. It is of special interest that this seat which has been held by a Liberal for the last 22 years has now been lost to them and it is confidently expected that the Government will soon realize the danger they are running in refusing justice to the women.

B. BORRMANN WELLS.

The Netherlands.

During the months of June and July elections are going on all over the country. This time they are not for the parliament which governs the state, but for the provincial and municipal councils; yet it goes without saying that in these elections, no more than in the parliamentary ones, women are never allowed a share in appointing the deputies to whom is entrusted the government of province and town, which claims obedience from men and women alike and has to protect and further the interests of all the inhabitants of both sexes. Moreover the Provincial States elect the members of the First Chamber or Senate, which has to approve or reject every bill passed by the Second Chamber before it can become law; and so they have great political influence too. In June the elections for the Provincial States gave a clerical majority, which is not a promising prospect for progressive measures.

Much of the canvassing and a little of the speaking on these occasions is done by women. Probably the Socialdemocratic party is the one which makes most use of their services; and it is an undeniable fact that its number of votes is rapidly growing. Sometimes, in meetings where the candidates for the Town Councils appear before the public, a few questions are put by women as to the intentions of the speaker with regard to some particular measures of importance to the female half of the population. Sometimes the answers are gracious, sometimes evasive, sometimes our claims are treated as a matter of course so self-evident that we seem ridiculous to bring it up for discussion. Yet, when it comes to the point, these „matters-of-course” often happen to be forgotten by our magistrates. Oh, what a help the ballot in the hands of women would be to their memory!

Our small country is now drawing the attention of the whole world because the Peace Conference is being held at The Hague. The International Council of Women has taken the opportunity for a demonstration in behalf of peace and arbitration, and a petition was presented to the President of the Conference by a deputation of women, some of whom have also been invited to a garden-party along with the members of the Peace Conference by H.M. Queen Wilhelmina. This action of the I. C. W. has been generally approved, and so public opinion begins to realize what great support the influence of women is to the cause of peace; surely this insight cannot fail to have its effect on the movement for woman suffrage. Give the women their say in the government of the nations, and you will save great expenditure of life and money!

The Dutch W. S. A. is going on with the preparations for the congress in 1908. Needless to say that news like that from Hungary and great victories like that in Norway are valuable encouragement to the Dutch suffragists. Letters are also

pouring in from different friends of the cause, who promise that they will not fail to be in Amsterdam in June 1908.

On 14 July there will be a meeting of members of the N. W. S. A. at Assen chiefly for the discussion of propagandamethods. These summer-meetings are becoming a pleasant feature in our programme, as they are mostly held on a beautiful spot in the country.

Italy.

In the first week of July the Minister of the Interior has sent to the prefects of the whole kingdom the following circular relative to the extension of the municipal vote to women:—

“The Committee appointed to investigate the extension of the municipal suffrage to women has expressed a desire to know at least approximately the number of women belonging to the following groups: 1 women members of charity-clubs and philanthropical institutions, either working in the administration of the charity-funds or in the distribution of relief-sums; 2 women belonging to private charity-boards or recreation-clubs for school-children, etc. 3 professional women having an avocation of a sanitary nature (physicians, midwives, sick-nurses, etc.); 4 the number of women tax-payers in each municipal district, either as members of the family or as employees; 5 the number of women who indirectly vote by proxy in municipal elections, according to the existing law on provincial and district government. It is requested that these informations be sent in before the middle of November, in order that the Committee may avail itself of them in its work.”

Austria.

In the first week after the opening of the new Parliament two projects of law both important for women were introduced in the Chamber of Deputies (Abgeordnetenhaus). The socialists proposed a change of § 7 of the Law on the Representation of the Empire (Reichsvertretungsgesetz), to the effect that henceforth it should run thus: “A vote for the election of deputies is to be given to every person, *irrespective of sex*, who has accomplished his 21st year, etc”. (Until now the law said “every *male* person having accomplished his 24th year”.) “Eligible as deputies are all persons, *irrespective of sex*, who have been citizens of the Austrian empire for at least three years and have accomplished their 30th year”.

The independent progressive deputies, baron Hock, Dr. Öner, Kuranda c.s., proposed a change of the Law on Assemblies (Vereinsgesetz), by which the provisions of this law against the political clubs are to be abolished. The said provisions refer to the exclusion of foreigners, minors and women from political unions, the *defence of founding branches and federations of political societies, of correspondence with other associations and of wearing union-badges.*

From these stipulations our readers may judge that no blame falls on Austrian women for neither possessing a N. W. S. A., nor being affiliated to the I. W. S. All. nor wearing the international badge.

As we reported some time ago, some women in Vienna have tried to form a W. S. A. But in first instance the authorities concerned prohibited the Association, referring to the above provisions of the law; and the appeal in second instance to the Minister of the Interior (Home Secretary)

ended equally by a refusal. The founders of the Association then laid the case before the Imperial Court (Reichsgericht), and its public discussion took place on 27 of June. The affair created some sensation and all papers wrote about it, as it was the first time that women appealed to the Imperial Court for a similar cause. However the Court confirmed the prohibition of the Association, on the plea that it had a political aim, and that simply *aiming at* political activity sufficed to qualify an association as a political one.

So we began by a defeat, yet we hope that it may soon be changed into a victory; for this “sentence” is bound to bring home to the deputies the absurdity of legal provisions that deny women the right of organising for political ends, whilst in fact women are beginning to occupy themselves more and more with politics, in which course many men do not hesitate to encourage them.

H. H.

CZECHISH WOMEN.

On May 14 the first elections for the Vienna Parliament held under the new law of universal and equal (for men only!) suffrage took place.

There were three questions in which especially we women were interested, viz.:

1. What result will these elections show, considering that for the first time people have been admitted to them who as yet were without any political right? for that will be of some influence on the attitude our government and deputies will take in regard to the enfranchisement of women.

2. Which political parties will gain the strongest position, and what is to be hoped from the new representatives for the enfranchisement of women?

3. Important to us are also the personal views of the elected Deputies; it depends on their attitude to our claims and rights how soon we shall reach our ends.

Of 517 deputies for the whole Empire, the Kingdom of Bohemia has only 130, owing to the arbitrary division of constituencies. 2,337,000 Germans will have 55 deputies, whilst 3,930,000 Bohemians will get 75 representatives (I speak here only of the Bohemian party, with which we Bohemian women have to count in our struggle for our rights, inclusive of the franchise).

The strongest party in the first elections were the Social-Democrats (the party as yet not represented) with 17 deputies; and in most constituencies Social-Democrats also came up for second elections. In that moment it seemed that the political power in the nation would be transferred from the Young-Bohemian or Liberal party (which for 16 years has had the largest representation, but in course of time altered its democratic attitude and so lost the confidence of the lower classes) to the Socialdemocratic party. Our experience forces us to think that the Socialdemocratic party, being a party for the class-struggle, will defend only its own interest without regarding the whole nation's wants. In our country however, a country of many languages, with a German government hostile to all other nations, it is not possible to be “international” as the Socialdemocratic party declares to be. And the more danger is there, when we consider that other countries have also sent to the Parliament of Vienna many Socialdemocratic deputies, whose leader until now has been the Jew Adler.

Therefore a watch-word has been given before the second elections: “Let us defend our Nationality!” And with that all the other parties united under one National flag against the Social-Democrats. And really, in the close-elections the

Social-Democrats did not obtain any more deputies. But, to be sure a progressive man cannot be satisfied with the result of these elections; for that union of all parties resulted in the election of 7 Clerical deputies, who otherwise would have remained forgotten in Bohemia. And the Clerical party means the same in the whole world: a check to every progress!

Beside that, another class-party is coming as one of the strongest into parliament, the Agrarian party, a party not progressive enough, with a number of 23 deputies. — The formerly leading Young-Bohemian party has 16 deputies, the Old Bohemian 1, the Staterights party 9, the Realists 1, the Progressive 3, the Social-Democrats 17.

As regards women's claims the present situation in the Bohemian camp is as follows:

1. From the defeat of the liberals it may be inferred that universal suffrage found our Nation unprepared, that the result of the elections indicates the victory of the uneducated, etc. Judging from that, I must say there is no support for our claims to be expected from our liberal parties.

2. Nine of the Staterights-party, 1 Progressive, 1 Realist, 17 Social-Democrats — together 28 deputies — declared themselves in principle for entire equality of rights between the sexes. The Young Bohemians or Liberals take in regard to women's rights a reserved attitude; nevertheless it is possible to count on them for the future. For it is to be expected that, keeping in contact with people and under the influence of those parties which in principle are for our rights, they will incline to our claims too.

3. The Readers of J. S. remember perhaps the questioning of deputies which was reported in the preceding number. Among those candidates who agreed with our claims only 20 have been elected. But surely we can count on 34 votes out of 75. — The discussion on the change of § 30, to the effect that women too may be allowed to found political clubs will be a test for our deputies; this bill will be presented in the first days of the session of the parliament. And even if our work had no other positive outcome than that we have awakened interest for a new question, in so far that we can count on 34 votes out of 75, I think we can be strengthened by that result and persevere in our work!

Prague.

F. PLAMÍNKOVÁ.

The following appeal was addressed to the Women of Austrian Lands, which have Representatives in the Parliament by the Bohemian women:

“In July the Bohemian Women will present to the Parliament a petition claiming the change of § 30 inasmuch as women too may be allowed to be members and founders of political clubs.

They summon all conscious women of those Lands of Austria which have representation in the Parliament, to present with all possible despatch a similar petition, and to try to get support for it from their deputies. — And they also intend again to present a petition for true Universal Suffrage, equal for men and women. Only by united work success is possible!”

THE WOMEN SUFFRAGE COMMITTEE.

Prague—Bohemia.

Hungary.

The victory of the Austrian socialists in the recent elections has encouraged the radical element in Hungary to take up the struggle for universal suffrage with renewed energy, and so the free-masons in Budapest called a meeting

which formulated radical demands, — of course without making the slightest allusion to the question of woman suffrage. The radicals are blind and deaf to this question. In the same spirit the socialists throughout the country make demonstrations for universal suffrage. Only one meeting of non-party politicians in the provincial town of Nagyvárad adopted a resolution at the request of a woman speaker delegated by the League of Women Employees in Budapest, which demanded expressly adult suffrage for men and women. This was the first resolution of similar tendency which was ever carried and sent to Parliament by an assembly of men in this country.

Moreover shortly the Parliament will have to pronounce on this question, for the Resolutions Committee of the House of Deputies has treated last month the petitions of the National League of Women Employees, presented in September 1905, and of the Feministenverein (N. W. S. A.), presented in December 1905, and passed them on to the Minister of the Interior; so possibly they may soon come before Parliament, this however is not quite certain. Meanwhile the two associations which have presented the petitions have sent severally to each deputy a circular in which they call again attention to woman suffrage. Our principal task is now to watch for an opportunity to put the question so perseveringly to the fore as to force the men to take a definite stand either for or against it. In the meetings we distribute leaflets for the enlightenment of the masses, and we are again going to have our well-known posters stuck up all over the country, in order to remind the partisans of so-called universal suffrage, that only that sort of suffrage may rightly be termed "universal" which gives votes to women.

For September we have planned a big open air meeting, such as until now was never yet called by women in our country. So we have reason to hope that this novelty may create some sensation, and thereby force our demand upon the public's attention.

In order to get a numerous attendance of Hungarian women at the Amsterdam congress, we begin our propaganda now. In the League of Women Employees Miss Janka Grossmann gave an address on travelling in company, and then it was resolved that the first journey was to be a pilgrimage to the Amsterdam congress. The participators begin to lay up money now by saving a small sum every week, else it would be impossible to them to make the rather expensive journey. Also in the N. W. S. A. a zealous propaganda is being carried on for the journey.

Für den Sommer haben wir eine eigenartige Form der Propaganda gewählt: Wir lassen in allen ungarischen Kurorten und Bädern Stimmrechtsplakate anbringen, so dass das Badepublikum die Frauenstimmrechtsfrage als Tagesgespräch behandeln muss.

Ein überaus wichtiges Ereignis ist, dass der von 27 bis 30 Juli in Budapest abgehaltene Landeskongress der Privatbeamten und Handelsangestellten — der 21.000 Personen vertreten hat — eine Resolution für das allgemeine Wahlrecht angenommen hat, in der ausdrücklich das unbeschränkte Frauenstimmrecht gefordert wurde. Einzelne männliche Redner wünschten Beschränkung auf die erwerbenden Frauen, doch acceptierte der Kongress einstimmig die radikale Forderung.

R. S.

France.

On Thursday the 13th of June Mrs. Adela Knight and Mrs. Dora B. Montefiore, two of the English Suffragists who have suffered imprisonment in the forward movement for obtaining equal political rights with men, accepted an invitation from the *Solidarité des Femmes*, the Socialist Women's organisation in Paris, to speak at the Salle de la Sorbonne on votes for Women. Dr. Madeleine Pelletier the President of the *Solidarté* was in the chair, and Mrs. Montefiore spoke in French for forty minutes, and explained why she had openly resisted paying income tax, and why she, Mrs. Knight, and others had been put in prison and herded with drunkards, prostitutes, and thieves. She dwelt on the international spirit which now pervaded the women's movement, and reminded her audience how, since the International Suffrage Alliance Congress, which took place last year in Copenhagen, and at which 26 countries were represented, those militant members of the Alliance who were in touch with members in other lands had pledged themselves to give active help in any country where their service might be demanded. Mrs. Knight a most intelligent working woman from the East End of London, gave an account in English of the cruel economic and social conditions in which the working classes of the East End of London pass their lives; and described how ready the down-trodden East End women were to fight for equal political rights, so that they might have a say in the legislation, which affected so closely the lives of themselves and of their children.

On the following Monday a Demonstration of women carrying banners with inscriptions. "La femme doit voter", "Women should vote for the laws they obey and the taxes they pay", *Femmes de tous les pays unissez vous pour revendiquer vos droits*" drove through the principal boulevards and streets of Paris.

Their destination was the Chambre des Députés, where they asked to see Mons. Clémenceau in order to request him to help forward the Woman Suffrage Bill which is promised for this Session. As Monsieur Clémenceau was speaking in the Chamber, the Deputation was received by Jaurès, who promised that the Socialist group would interest themselves in the matter.

Russia.

I am entrusted by the conference of the *Union of Defenders of Women's rights* (or *Union of Women Suffrage*), held in Moscow 7—8 June of this year, to complete my last informations by this:

The *League of Women Suffrage*, legalized on the 15th of April 1907, uniting women on the ground of existing laws, agrees to work for the conferring of political and civil rights on Russian women. As to the *Union of Defenders of Women's rights*, representing one of the purest democratic organisations in Russia, it endeavours to obtain general radical reforms for the whole country and for all the nationalities that constitute Russia. One of the essential parts of these reforms is the equalisation of Women's rights with those of men. The first paragraph of the constitution of the Union distinctly declares this general aim of the Union. It runs as follows:

"The aim of the Union of Defenders of Women's Rights is to co-operate in the general political emancipation and to obtain equalisation of rights of women with men."

Riasan, 1 July 1907.

ELISE GONTSCHAROFF.