

JUS SUFFRAGII,

MONTHLY ORGAN OF THE
INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

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

FOURTH YEAR No. 4.

DECEMBER 15, 1909.

„This is no ephemeral agitation: the women's cause must win; it is for us men to determine through what strife, what desperate expedients, they are to pass to the end which we may delay but cannot prevent.”

R. F. CHOLEMELEY.



“The political disabilities of women have done incalculable harm by cheapening their labour and lowering their position in the industrial world’.

EVA GORE-BOOTH.

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Announcements.

The Report of the London Congress may be ordered from Mrs. Adela Stanton Coit, 30 Hyde Park Gate, London S. W. for 1 Shilling and 3 pence post paid.

A similar Report of the Amsterdam Congress may be distributed to public libraries, on application to Miss Martina G. Kramers, 92 Kruiskade, Rotterdam.

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United States.

The interest in Woman Suffrage continues to increase. The National president, Dr. Anna Howard Shaw, has just returned from a trip—2,000 miles each way—to help the women of South Dakota open their campaign. The Legislature of that State has submitted to the electors the question, „Shall the constitution of our State be amended so as to give the suffrage to women?” Next November the men will vote on this, and for a whole year the women will have to use their time, money and effort to persuade a majority of these men to vote Yes. It is because this very difficult process is necessary in every State that our women are so long in getting the franchise. On her way home Dr. Shaw stopped at Chicago and helped the women there open their new headquarters, from which those of the State of Illinois will conduct their work, which is in excellent hands and very well advanced.

The mass meeting of the National Association in New York City was a gratifying success. The hall, which seats 3,000 people, was crowded, and all but those in the top galleries paid from fifty cents to one dollar-and-a-half for seats. Heretofore it has always been the custom to admit the public without charge to suffrage meetings. Several hundred eminent men and women were on the platform, and hung on the back of it were large bulletins, 12 by 22 feet, with the statistics to show that many women in New York are working for

6 cents an hour; that 600,000 in this State are bread-winners; that the women public school teachers receive only from one-half to two-thirds as much salary as the men; also that several millions of the working people have officially demanded the suffrage. These bulletins made a great sensation and are being sent for to use at many other meetings.

Mrs. Pankhurst is giving her last two lectures in New York this week before sailing. She has had large audiences everywhere and has greatly helped the cause of woman suffrage in both the United States and Great Britain. Mr. Philip Snowden, of Mrs. Fawcett's Association, which belongs to the International Alliance, is now making a successful tour of this country and charming and converting everybody who hears her. On Thanksgiving Day, November 25, Mrs. Chapman Catt gave a beautiful dinner for her, to which all of the officials at the headquarters were invited. The other guest of honor was Mrs. Helen Loring Grenfell, the most distinguished woman of Colorado. She has just held for six years the prominent office of State Superintendent of Public Instruction in that State, where all women may vote. The readers of Jus Suffragii will be pleased to know that Mrs. Chapman Catt seems to have found at last the medical treatment she needed and her health is rapidly improving.

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(Continuation.)

Stronger reasons than these exist, however, for the present great uprising of women to demand the franchise. There is in the United States a vast army known as “club women”, which has not its exact counterpart in any other country. Their clubs began about forty years ago for purely literary study and work, but their scope has broadened until now it comprises every activity in which women are interested. A large number of these clubs, with a membership of nearly 1,000,000, are united in what is known as the Federation of Women's Clubs, but this probably does not include one-third of the women who belong to clubs of various kinds. Of late years these “club women” have been turning away from

literature, art, music, history, etc., and directing their energies to public questions, those relating to schools, public play-grounds, day nurseries, diet kitchens, pure milk and water, clean streets, decent housing for the poor, and many others. Work for these carried the women before Legislatures and Municipal Councils, and they finally learned that the men who composed these bodies served only those who elected them. As a result, thousands of these club women are now demanding to vote for those who make and execute the laws, collect and spend the taxes and govern the cities. The women who work especially for temperance and social purity learned this lesson years ago.

Then there is another army of what are called "college women", those who hold college degrees or are still in the colleges — at least 100,000 of these — and among them are thousands of lawyers, physicians and teachers. They have studied in the same class rooms with men, maintained the same standard of scholarship and taken the same degrees, but as soon as they begin their life-work they realize that they are handicapped by not having the dignity and power of the ballot. It has taken them a long time but now they understand this, and there are very few of them who are not suffragists.

And then comes that immense army which, in the final struggle for the franchise, will be most powerful, the wage-earning women, counted, not by the hundreds or the thousands, but by the millions! They, too, have been very slow to recognize the chief cause of their low wages and hard conditions, but they know it now, and they have the tremendous force of the *men's* labor organisations at their back in the battle for the ballot which they are now ready to fight to the finish.

Patiently, steadily, unflinchingly, for half-a-century the Suffrage Associations have been preparing the ground, sowing the seed and tilling the fields for the splendid harvest which now is not far away. The month of September saw the fulfilment of one glorious dream — the centering of the movement in the great and influential city of New York, in headquarters suited to its needs. These are due primarily to one public-spirited woman of this city, Mrs. Oliver H. P. Belmont, who has called to her aid other women of wealth, and some men also, and engaged an entire floor of nine rooms in one of the best office buildings in the city. Here the National Association is established, the offices are under the direction of its president, Rev. Anna Howard Shaw. The Empire State of New York has also its headquarters here.

One of the strongest reasons for placing the headquarters in New York was to secure the support of its newspapers, which are by far the most influential of any in the United States, and reach even the remotest villages. In less than two months the wisdom of this course has been a hundred-fold justified. In the three days preceding the writing of this report, the newspapers of New York City have contained over fifty long columns on Woman Suffrage. During the entire time they have averaged from five to ten columns daily. In addition to this, the great News Associations, which supply the papers throughout the country, have sent out thousands of words. In all, there has been scarcely one disrespectful paragraph. We believe there never has been such a record.

IDA HUSTED HARPER,
Chairman National Woman
Suffrage Press Bureau.

New York, November 1909.

France.

The French Woman Suffrage Association has organised for the 12th of this month a meeting which is to be presided by Mrs. J. E. Schmahl, President of our Association, whilst a lawyer from the Appeal Court, Mr. Charles Hébert, will give an address in favor of woman suffrage. Mr. Hébert has further offered to go on a lecturing tour in the departments of the country.

This is a proof of the progress which the suffrage is making in Parliament. A deputy, Mr. Louis Marin, became a suffragist fifteen years ago at the beginning of his political career, having been converted by Mrs. Schmahl. Lately at the session of the Permanent Women's International Congress he gave a complete review of the progress of suffragism. This progress is so evident that, although a year ago Mr. Marin estimated that a term of fifteen years would surely elapse before we got the municipal vote, he would not now undertake to fix any term, so rapid is the onmarch of the movement.

As a positive sign of this change in public opinion he considered the unprecedented fact that a Commission of the Chamber, the Parliamentary Commission on Universal Suffrage, had declared itself in favour of municipal rights for women and requested Mr. Ferdinand Buisson to take charge of the report on Mr. Dussaussoy's bill of which we gave an account in "Jus Suffragii". Another committee, the Commission on Petitions, had elected Mr. Marin as reporter on the petition of the Woman Suffrage Association which we mentioned in the preceding number. Mr. Marin announced that he means to introduce his report without delay and that he is going to make it in favour of entire equality of political rights for women. To be sure the Chamber will not solve these questions, and it will even devote very little discussion to them before the end of the present legislative period. But it will certainly take them seriously, as is evident from its attitude during the recent declaration of Mr. Marcel Sembat in the discussion on electoral reform. Our readers will perhaps remember that Mr. Sembat set up the principle that an electoral reform could not be complete without enfranchising the women.

Mr. Louis Marin also called attention to the growing readiness with which the Parliament adopts little practical reforms in which the women are interested. Since ten years Chamber and Senate had been deliberately deaf to the women's claims, and on the very day of Mrs. Schmahl's audience, the Chamber agreed that the Mother's Friendly Societies (*mutualités maternelles*) should be granted the same state-subsidies as are accorded other mutual societies. This had been refused a year ago. At the same time the Minister of Finance announced that he was prepared to yield on the question of furloughs to be given to teachers about to become mothers. Moreover the discussions on the budget started other questions of interest for women, of which we hope to let you know the solution next month.

We have also mentioned the lecture given by the President of the French W. S. A. in the "Collège libre des sciences sociales" (Free College of Social Studies) on *women's civil and political rights*. The very fact of this lecture being entrusted to Mrs. Schmahl by Mr. Deschanel, President of the Free College for Social Studies, showed a favorable disposition. Not less favorable were the numerous audience that had flocked to hear her and the great success of her persuas-

ive and ardent eloquence. And lo! now not only Mr. Flash is going to give his course of lectures in the Collège de France on women's political rights, but also the Académie takes the subject in hand: The "académie des sciences morales et politiques" sets up a competition for 1913 for an essay on Woman Suffrage.

As our "Institut de France" is not at all reputed revolutionary, we think we have a right to attach great importance to the choice of this subject. Paris, December 5th, 1909. JANE MISCHE.

Great Britain.

In November a correspondence passed between the North of England branch of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Society and Mr. Winston Churchill; the upshot of which was that Mr. Churchill does not propose to make any further pronouncement on the subject of woman Suffrage at the present moment.

On November a deputation of 14 members of the Forward Suffrage Union within the Women's Liberal Federation was received by Lord Crewe at the Colonial Office.

Lady Grove, who introduced the deputation, said their object was to try to obtain some definite idea of the attitude the present Government meant to adopt on the question of Woman Suffrage when they appealed to the country, in order that the dissatisfaction which was spreading rapidly among a larger proportion of Liberal women throughout the country might be arrested. The Prime Minister's pronouncement, though appreciated, did not satisfy them.

Lord Crewe, in reply, said he feared he could not make anything like a declaration of policy on behalf of the Government. He had never been a violent opponent. If they made this question a definite issue at the general election, it would undoubtedly involve changes in those who now held office in the party a distinct loss of strength to the Liberal party. If they asked whether there was a chance of Woman Suffrage being made a plank in the Government programme if they went to the country, he replied that there was not.

In November there went a deputation to the Edinburgh Town Council to protest against the giving of the Freedom of the City to Mr. Asquith. Miss Chrystal Macmillan, and some others laid their grievances before the Town Council.

They were kept waiting for an hour and a half, while those gentlemen, whom they had helped to elect, were considering whether or not they would grant them a hearing. The motion that they should be received was only carried by three votes, Councillor Lorne Macleod and some others leaving the room on hearing that the deputation was to be admitted.

Representatives of the W. S. P. U. and W. F. L. were received simultaneously. One speaker from each deputation was then permitted to address the Council, and was warned beforehand that she was not to speak for more than five minutes, and that she was not to repeat what any other speaker said.

After this exhibition of magnanimity, it is needless to add that immediately after the withdrawal of the deputation, it was unanimously agreed that the Freedom of the City should be conferred on Mr. Asquith.

A very successful meeting of the Edinburgh Branch of the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association took place on November 19th at Edinburgh. Lady Betty Balfour was the principal speaker of the afternoon, and was followed by Mrs. H. Percy Boulnois. The following resolution was adopted by the meeting:—

"That this meeting considers the enfranchisement of women would raise their status, help their economic position, and consolidate the Empire; and that it is desirable that a Conservative and Unionist Government should have the honour of conferring the rights of citizenship on those who are disqualified solely on the ground of sex."

Besides this, there were meetings held by the Scottish University Women's Suffrage Union in the Victoria Hall, by the Church League for Women's Suffrage at Essex Hall, and a speakers' class for by the Younger Suffragists was conducted by Miss M. I. Corbett in the office of the London Society.

From: "The Common Cause".

The month of November has been an exceedingly busy one for the Women's Social and Political Union. Not only has a vast amount of peaceful propaganda work been carried out, but a striking series of militant demonstrations have taken place. Foremost among these was a protest made by women on the occasion of the annual Lord Mayor's Banquet in the Guild Hall. Having learnt that at this Banquet the entire Cabinet would be present, the women determined to make a vigorous protest, firstly against the continual refusal of the Government to grant "Votes for Women", and secondly to the treatment meted out to the brave women already in prison. The authorities anticipated such a move on the part of the women and took the utmost precautions to exclude unwelcome guests from the hall. Two women, however, Miss Paul (who had on several previous occasions been imprisoned) and Miss Brown, a new recruit, managed to gain entrance to the Guild Hall. This they did by adopting the disguise of charwomen and applying, duly equipped with pails and brushes, at an early hour in the morning. During the day they hid themselves in the precincts of the hall, and despite the careful searching made by the authorities remained undiscovered. When the Banquet was about to begin, they left their hiding place, and took up their stand in a small gallery overlooking the Banquet Hall, they found that a large window hid them from the guests and prevented their voices from being heard. Carefully choosing a pane of glass, the breaking of which would not appreciably detract from the value of the window, Miss Brown made a small hole, and through this they called on the Prime Minister to give Votes to Women. Accustomed in finding Suffragettes on the roofs of buildings, the officials, police and many of the guests engaged in an exciting chase among the chimney pots. Needless to say this chase did not result in the capture of the women, who were only discovered after they had been voicing their protests for about 15 minutes. The following day, Miss Paul and Miss Brown were brought before the magistrate, and sentenced to one month's hard labour.

Another striking demonstration was made at Bristol, where two Cabinet Ministers (Mr. Winston Churchill and Mr. Birrell) were announced to speak;

here five women were arrested, one of whom, Miss Theresa Garnett, gave vent to the contempt in which the women of the W. S. & P. U. hold members of the present Government, by deliberately striking Mr. Winston Churchill. The women were sentenced to terms of imprisonment of 14 days and one month. At Birmingham five more women were arrested for attempting to hold a protest meeting about the treatment of their colleagues, which Miss March was undergoing in the prison at that town. They were, however, remanded for 21 days, and so their fate at the time of writing is not known. Meanwhile, all the women in prison in connection with the suffragette agitation are being subjected to the abominable outrage of forcible feeding.

It will be remembered that in July of this year, Mrs. Pankhurst and 93 other women were tried for going on deputation to the Prime Minister. Mrs. Pankhurst and one other lady, the Hon. Mrs. Haverfield were sentenced to one month's imprisonment, but this sentence together with the trial of their 92 colleagues was suspended, until such time as the case should have been heard in a higher court. This case was duly heard on Dec. 1st. and the decision of the magistrate was upheld by the Lord Chief Justice of England. At the time of writing, further developments are being eagerly awaited. The Government have had it in their power to imprison and to forcibly feed 94 women, including the leader of the W. S. & P. U., Mrs. Pankhurst. If this were actually done, the results would be almost unthinkable, so strong is the feeling of love and devotion, with which the members of the Women's Social and Political Union regard Mrs. Pankhurst.

In addition to this militant work, the Women's Social and Political Union have taken an active part in the Bermondsey by-election, and also in the Portsmouth and Uxbridge contests, which were begun during the month, but, which owing to the premature dissolution of Parliament were not concluded.

EMMELINE PETHICK LAWRENCE.
London, December 1909.

The Secretary of the Women's Freedom League spreads on a large scale in the international press the following article on political agitation in England: "It has been the boast of England that under her free institutions serious political agitations have been practically unknown, and so, unlike all other civilised countries, there is no recognition in law of 'political prisoners'."

However, England is now faced with a serious political agitation, an agitation of women for political status. The action of the authorities throughout has been one of vacillation, weakness alternating with severity, and an utter absence of any recognition of the nature and importance of the struggle they have been called upon to deal with.

It is now four years since the first women went to prison in defence of their rights, and in November of this year two women, Mrs. Chapin and Miss Neilans were sent to prison as criminals for three months for interfering with a ballot box by pouring a staining solution into it as a protest against the unrepresentative nature of the election. The crime was a purely political one or it was no crime at all.

The trial was conducted at the Central Criminal Court by a Judge whose partisan attitude in regard to an important trial in July 1906, was the subject of a debate in Parliament, when the general charge

brought against him was: 'Judge Grantham brought to bear on the decision of an election petition a mind so biased by political prejudice as to render him incompetent to give a fair and impartial judgment. His conduct on the bench was unjudicial, calculated to lower the dignity of the bench as a revered institution and to cast no credit on his fellow Judges'. The Prime Minister said: 'he is undoubtedly a partisan and an outspoken and intemperate partisan', and also: 'no one more condemns his conduct than I do'.

At the trial of Mrs. Chapin and Miss Neilans he gave orders that no women were to be admitted to the Court and although the friends of the accused were ready and willing to give pledges that no disturbances would be made, the Judge persisted in his refusal.

Miss Neilans defended herself but was continually interrupted and insulted by the Judge. After her defence in violation of all principles of Justice fresh evidence against Miss Neilans was brought forward and a fresh witness called, without Miss Neilans having an opportunity to reply. Miss Neilans made an eloquent and vigorous appeal for their treatment as political prisoners, quoting the precedent of Dr. Jameson who was placed in the first division. This was refused by Judge Grantham in the following words: 'you are both criminals, and I shall treat you the same as other criminals'.

Miss Neilans pointed out to the Judge and jury that they were sentencing her not only to imprisonment, but to torture by the stomach tube, the gag, the fire-hose and such other instruments as the present Government may choose to employ to crush an agitation the only end of which is to gain that political freedom for women now enjoyed by men.

The continuance of this state of affairs is rendered possible only by the difficulty of making known universally the actual facts, but unfortunately the British Press is swayed by Party motives entirely. It is in the interest of the Party supporting the present Government to suppress and distort the facts relating to Suffragist prisoners, while the opposition desires to be left free to deal with the agitation in the same coercive spirit.

Mrs. Chapin and Miss Neilans are members of the Women's Freedom League, a Suffrage Society which though militant has always taken special precautions in all its protests to avoid any injury to persons or property.

Add to this that Judge Grantham at the opening of the assizes gave a little address to the jury about the Steinheil trial, in which he pointed out the superiority of criminal procedure in England as compared with that in France from the standpoint of justice.

EDITH HOW MARTYN.
1 Robert Street, Adelphi, London.

November has been notable for the great activity of the League not only in London but everywhere in the provinces and Scotland. Mrs. Despard has stirred the women of Ireland to revolt and the campaign of Miss Muriel Matters in South Wales has been most effective.

The Women's Freedom League is now organizing a great gathering at the Royal Albert Hall London on December 11th in which several well-known speakers will take part. A historical pageant will also be given in which many notable women,

including Miss Ellen Terry, Mrs. Lily Langtry and Mrs. Brown Potter, are participating.

Our General Election campaign is well under way and promises to be of extraordinary interest. London, December 1909. B. BORRMANN WELLS.

The Men's League for Women's Suffrage has received through Mr. H. Y. Stanger, K. C., M. P., one of its leading members, an intimation from Mr. Asquith that in consequence of the heavy pressure of business he has been compelled to decline to receive any further deputations this session.

The following resolution was passed by the committee on November 18:—

"That this League, which was formed to promote the Enfranchisement of Women, and which has persistently worked for that object by united action among its members, and by giving all possible help to other societies having a similar object in view, resolves to adhere to this line of action and to maintain its attitude of strict neutrality in regard to the policy of other societies.

"Whilst holding most strongly the aforesaid opinion, it cannot but express its deep regret and anxiety at the action of the present Liberal Government in refusing to recognise in the early stages of the militant movement the political nature of the technical offences which supporters of the movement have committed, by placing such offenders in the First Division. We further feel, and must regretfully record our opinion, that the forcible feeding of women political prisoners is the outcome of this want of discrimination, and that therefore grave responsibility rests with the Government for this deplorable condition of affairs."

Accordingly there passed a correspondence between the Home Secretary and the Men's League ending in Mr. Gladstone's refusal of any special remission of Miss Marsh's sentence.

(Monthly Paper M. L. W. S.)

The Netherlands.

At the opening of Parliament the Minister of the Interior (Premier) mentioned his intention of appointing a Commission to prepare the revision of the Constitution, and in November the parliamentary discussions on the budget gave him an opportunity of declaring that there was no hurry for the revision, because "the actual electoral regulations were broad enough to allow of everybody's wishes and opinions to be represented." This view—though quite natural in those that have come into power by the present electoral system—not being shared by the disfranchised Dutch women, the N.W.S.A. addressed a petition to the Minister of the Interior in order to urge him to speedily appoint the promised Commission. The Men's League for Woman Suffrage supported this action by sending also a petition to the Premier, whilst the Independent Women's League of Amsterdam further emphasized the need of women as members of the proposed Commission.

The Men's League is in good progress and, at its annual meeting, decided to issue a monthly paper, for which an editor has already been found. The annual meeting of the N. W. S. A., which is to take place on Dec. 11 and 12, will doubtless show a splendid growth of the membership and the number of Local Sections. This progress is partly owing to the help of our excellent foreign speakers, Miss M. I. Corbett and lately Miss Rosika

Schwimmer, who travelled all over the country and by her spirited and witty addresses gained many converts to the cause.

Dr. ALETTA H. JACOBS.
Amsterdam, Dec. 9, 1909.

Russia.

Unfortunately there is not much to report on the women's movement here, since the general political situation is unfavorable at this moment. Now the month of October was a little more lively in St. Petersburg. Dr. Schirmacher whom we had invited came to give a series of lectures. Unfortunately these lectures were in German or in French which hindered the general Russian public from attending them. Yet the lecture-room was always full and people listened attentively and there were lively discussions. Especially the French conference drew many Russian ladies. The others were arranged by our German colony, and had principally a German audience. Then there were some receptions in private houses by suffragists, Mme Philosophoff, Mme Evdokimoff and Mme Kalmanovitch, and further a conference in a Petersburg women's club. All this inspired our women with new courage, and Mme Koubé profited by this wave of energy for the realisation of her long-cherished plan of forming a society for the protection of women's legal rights (Rechtsschutzverein). The German Ladies have also hastened to found a bureau for legal advice, and in all probability they will join their Russian sisters. All is already in working order. We have formed a preparatory committee which has entered upon its functions. Eminent men give us their support, and if there is no obstacle on the part of our Government, we hope that shortly things will be going on, the more so as at the head of this enterprise we find Mme Koubé, a very energetic lady, well-known in philanthropic circles.

At Mrs. Evdokimoff's there was also a reunion where Mrs. Gardner, who has done much for the women's cause, gave a report on all that has hitherto been done in the question of the white slave traffic in our country. Perhaps if some one came to put herself at the head this movement might also come to life again.

Another event caused our women some emotion. A young woman lawyer, Miss Fleischitz presented herself at the bar of a tribunal to take the defence of a criminal. Now after our laws nobody is prohibited from pleading a criminal cause. Cases have even occurred of simple untaught women acting for the defence in such trials. But Miss Fleischitz has studied law, she was recognized as a member of the corporation of barristers by our lawyers. The President of the Tribunal had permitted her to act as defender for the accused, although not as defendant's counsel, as he saw no obstacle in our laws against a non-professional defender acting for the accused. However the Emperor's Council (procureur) was of a different opinion. He protested first, and then, seeing that the President did not change his mind, he left the session, which is never allowed. The affaire having come up at last to the Senate, every one expected that the Emperor's Council (procureur) would be reprimanded either by the Council General (procureur général) or by the Senate. Well, nothing of the kind happened. Nothing was said about it. But the Senate has declared against women being lawyers. Now 100 members of our Douma (Parliament) have submitted this question to the Douma. This number is composed of M.P.s

of all the progressive parties, the octobrists included, and the Popular Liberal Party took the initiative. We shall see the result.

ANNA KALMANOVITCH.
St. Petersburg, 15 (28) November 1909.

The St. Petersburg club of the Women's Progressive Party has decided:

1. To address a petition to the Council of Ministers asking the abolishment of the law (art. 156 of the Code) which prohibits women from being received as functionaries in Government and Common institutions.

2. To solicit the Minister of Justice to extend to women the right of being jurymen.

M. WAKHTINA.
St. Petersburg, 19 Dec. 09.

Hungary.

A total stagnation has taken place of late in Hungarian politics; nobody, neither the King, nor the Government or any of the political parties seem to know how to get over this standstill. The claim of a Hungarian National Bank, which should be a step towards the economical enfranchisement of Hungary, is strongly opposed by the King and Austria and has caused a split of the greatest political party in Hungary. The question of the suffrage reform is thrown quite into the background. It will merely form a solid plank in the platform of the different parties in case of new elections. But though the politicians have dropped it and merely use it in negotiating with the King, women have taken it up very enthusiastically and in quite unexpected ways.

Previously to the yearly congress of the Hungarian National Council of Women, the David Terencz Society, a unitarian association based on religious principles, sent to the president of the Council a proposition for the formation of a suffrage section, which proposal, though the statutes of the Council require but two seconding associations, was supported by not less than seven associations, namely: the Hungarian National Peace Union, the Hungarian N. Abstinent Women's Associations, the Vizcsöpp (Waterdrops) Union, the Feministák Egyesülete, the Országos Nőtisztviselők Egyesülete (women clerks' N. Union), the Educational League of Tehérmegye (a county) and the Elisabeth Infant School Association of Temesvár-Mehala. The meeting was well attended, chiefly on account of the expected debate, and everybody was prepared for a stormy discussion. Mrs. Flora Rozma Perczel who, as vice-president of the David Terencz Assoc., moved the formation of the women suffrage section delivered her address with great eloquence, her brilliant speech was frequently interrupted by stormy applause and made great impression even on the most conservative hearers. The president read Miss Schwimmer's letter, to whose name the whole suffrage movement in Hungary is attached, and who, being at work in Holland, sent her greetings and encouragement to the meeting by letter. Four years ago, after the decision of the Berlin I. C. W. this same proposal was vigorously rejected in the Hungarian N. Council of Women, but this time many of those presidents of associations who had been most opposed to it, got up and declared that the events which have taken place since in Hungary as well as in foreign countries have convinced them of such great progress that they are no more opposed to the formation of the section. As Mrs. Kirmai supported the proposal

on behalf of the N. Mothers and Infants Protecting Alliance, pointing out the advantages woman suffrage brings to all cultural movements, and as there was nobody speaking in opposition, the proposal was unanimously accepted.

This victory is the best proof of what enormous progress the question of woman suffrage has made in Hungary even among conservative women, known as the most vehement opponents, hardest to overcome.

On occasion of the removal of the remains of Kossuth Lajos, our great hero of liberty, to a grand mausoleum, a deputation of the Feministák Egyesülete presented a wreath at which occasion Miss Vilma Glücklich, the president, held a much applauded speech reminding the Hungarians that Kossuth began his brilliant career as the representative of a Hungarian woman, and urged the Hungarian men to restore and extend the rights of Hungarian women.

EUGENIE MISKOLCZY MELLER.
Budapest, the 1st of December 1909.

Austria.

The Vienna Committee for Woman Suffrage together with the Discussion Club held some time ago a protest-meeting against the growing dearth of eatables. Mr. Arthur Kuffler gave an address which gave a clear insight into the situation. The high duties on grain-import could not fail to augment the price of home-grown cereals. Servia is nowadays nearly ruined economically speaking, because the closing of the frontiers hinders her from exporting her surplus of cattle and corn into Austria. The Austrian and Hungarian "agrarians" have of course great interest in keeping the meat-prices up by shutting out all competition, especially by cheap Argentine canned meat, which is prohibited on the Austrian market by arbitrary regulations. The rise of milk-prices too has caused great indignation in Vienna, but the only efficient remedy, lowering of income-duty, was not applied. Against all these evils, nowadays even wholesale buying and selling is powerless. Only a judiciously conducted Consumers' League of women would be effective here.

The numerous audience showed the greatest appreciation of this address, which was followed by an interesting discussion.

Vienna, Dec. 4, 1909. NINI VON FÜRTH.

The women of Brünn, the capital of the Dominion of Moravia have to report a not insignificant progress. The women of Austria being deprived of the right to vote for the Council of the Empire, they are legally debarred from attending electors' meetings. When in spite of this, in Vienna or in Prague, they appear at those meetings, they are merely tolerated, as long as their presence does not importune the men, who may at any time shut them out. Yet, in Brünn, the German Electors' League, at the request of the Women's Association, formally invited them to some meetings, in which the deputies who represent the city presented a report on the political situation of the day. The German women were expressly invited to take part in the proceedings, and many complied with this request.

This innovation will probably prove to be an advantage, both for women and men. The women thus gain an opportunity for political training, and the men may educate grateful and eager pupils and collaborators.

Vienna, Dec. 4, 1909. HENRIETTE HERZFELDER.

Bohemia.

Die Verhandlungen wegen der Kandidatur einer Frau als Abgeordnete in den Landtag des Königreiches Böhmen, worüber schon letzthin berichtet wurde, blieben wieder ohne Erfolg, denn nicht die Idee, welche allgemein anerkannt wurde, aber der Egoismus der Männer trug den Sieg davon. Der einzige Erfolg — allerdings für uns nur ein negativer — ist, dass wir besser die Sympathien der Männer kennen lernen, welche auf Distanz weit wärmer sind, als wenn sie in Taten umgewandelt werden sollen, dass wir die Aufklärung immer in weitere Kreise verbreiten, dass die Sehnsucht und die Bemühung der politischen Parteien wächst, die Frauen in ihre Reihen zu bekommen: heute bereits haben alle politische Parteien — ausser eine einzige, die Konservative — politische Frauenorganisationen; und das ist, weil wir die Aufmerksamkeit der politischen Parteien zu den Frauen stets nähren, auch unser Erfolg.

Das Verständniss für die Sache wächst — dies ist auch ein unbestreitbarer Erfolg der bisherigen Arbeit. Man versichert uns, dass bei den nächsten allgemeinen Landeswahlen — in 4 Jahren — sicher eine Frau in den Landtag gewählt wird.

Den Leserinnen dieses Blattes ist jedoch bekannt, dass eine Reform der Wahlordnung in Vorbereitung ist, welche den Frauen das *passive* Wahlrecht *nehmen soll*. Dadurch verliert die erwähnte Versicherung ihren Wert; und für uns ist dieser Umstand nur Aufforderung, damit wir, bis zu der Zeit, wo über die Reform definitiv entschieden werden wird, das Gewissen der Gesetzgeber aufwecken, damit sie diese Verkrüppelung der Frauenrechte nicht zulassen.

F. PLAMÍNKOVÁ.
Prague, Dec. 1909.

Canada.

Canada is politically out of joint.

Not merely because of the lack of distinctive principle and policy which makes the nominal parties simply contestants to retain or regain office, but because of the low standard of political morals, if indeed it can truthfully be said that there is any standard at all.

Not a general election passes and few by-elections occur free from gross charges of bribery, of corruption, of sharp electoral practices. Election trials are conspicuous by the appearance of witnesses who shamelessly acknowledge that their votes are purchaseable and by contradictions so absolute and direct that the only conclusion can be deliberate perjury on one side or the other.

Yet they are condoned by whichever party is in power and governments one after the other take advantage of their tenure of office to continue actions which every independent man must condemn as entirely opposed to democratic principle.

When Canning found it impossible to prevent new and threatening combinations of the European powers, he, in his own words, "called in the new world to redress the balance of the old." Something of this kind appears to be the only remedy for the ills which afflict the Canadian state. Fortunately it can be found.

There is a large constituency of unenfranchised who have not been tainted by the objectionable methods of the past, whose moral sense is keener and purer, whose dearest aspirations are intimately associated with the introduction of genuine political and social reforms, whose whole interests lie in the direction of raising the standard of living,

morally, intellectually and physically, thruout the Dominion and its provinces. They can be and will be the salvation of the Dominion. The weight of their influence in the home and in public life, their votes at the polls, will always be cast on the side that makes for purity in all departments of the state and for high character on the part of those who are ambitious to guide its councils.

Because "The World" believes this it holds the hour has now come, to call in the women of Canada to redress the political, electoral and social evils from which the country suffers.

The time is ripe.

Let Ontario have the honor of leading the way in Canada—it can have the honor if the women of Ontario are really desirous to possess the franchise on equal terms with men. Sir James Whitney is personally in favor of the measure—like the British premier he has placed himself on record as prepared to concede the grant if a majority of women so demand. That being so and it being certain that what women want they will get just so soon as they are in real earnest, it appears to The World that not men but their unconverted or inarticulate sisterhood should be the object of the educational propaganda.

(The Toronto World, Oct. 23.)

Denmark.

The first reading of the bill to amend the Constitution and confer the vote on women has begun in our Parliament. The following remarks were made by some of the MPs who spoke on it.

Mr. Rode (Radical, mover of the amendment) said that the participation of women in government would be as profitable for the community as it was just. Mr. Borgbjerg (Socialdemokrat) referred to his party's programme, which demands universal, direct and equal suffrage for all adult men and women. Mr. Hamwerin (Conservative) said that in his party the opinions were divided on this subject: but the majority, although regretting that the women's municipal suffrage had had so little opportunity yet to show the aptitude of women, would not be opposed, as he thought. Mr. N. Neergaard (moderate Liberal) and Mr. Jensen Sønderup (Liberal) pronounced themselves in favor of the bill. Mr. Johan Kundsén (Conservative), although not himself opposed, feared that a lot of his political friends might be; and thought prudent to wait till the operation of the municipal franchise of women should have had a fair time for trial. Mr. Wulf (Conservative) was not against woman suffrage, but it should be dealt with in the distant future, and the anti-suffrage movement in England and America proved that the women did not want to be enfranchised. This speaker had to be protected by the chair from interruptions from the proposers of the bill.

There is no foretelling the fate of the woman suffrage bill, but we keep eyes and ears open.

Miss Rosika Schwimmer, who had been invited by the "Valgretsforbund" and the Copenhagen branch of "Dansk Kvindesamfund", gave a brilliant lecture on Women as human creatures and citizens. Miss Schwimmer got an enthusiastic reception from the Danish women, who remembered her well since the congress in 1906, and her speech was full of wit and of interest.

TH. DAUGAARD.
Copenhagen, December 1909.

Belgium.

The Belgian Woman Suffrage Association sent a report on its work to the Congrès Permanent du Féminisme International, which held a meeting on November 26.

The report gives the history of the formation and the work of the Belgian W. S. A. which is the outcome of the Feminist Suffrage Union of Brussels that belonged to the National Council of Women of Belgium. The association had much antagonism and adverse criticism to face, as well from the men, especially the politicians, as from the women who thought that philanthropic work was much preferable to the struggle for direct political influence, which yet alone can constitute a solid basis for women's social work. The Union secured the support of the women of Ghent; and together they brought about the affiliation of Belgium to the International Women Suffrage Alliance, and its representation at the London congress.

As to the suffrage work done, we may quote the agitation for the reform of the Prud'hommes (trades courts). The Feminist Union published an enormous quantity of leaflets in French and Flemish, treating of the desirability of that legal reform. It circulated petition-lists and addressed a memoir to the Chamber, providing statistical data for the parliamentary discussions. By granting suffrage and eligibility to women for the Prud'hommes, the Chamber took the first step on the way to women's enfranchisement, since the bill awards professional franchise to 661,511 women employers and employees. The Senate will shortly have to decide in the matter. Let us hope that its vote may be favorable. Senator Claeys Bouwart, the Reporter on the Bill, will receive a deputation of delegates of our women's associations, before he makes the Report on the new law.

JULIE GILAIN, L. L. D.

Brussels, Nov. 1909.

Mrs. Gilain, Miss Popelin, Mrs. Nyst and Miss van den Plas were most cordially received by Mr. Bouwart. On leaving, the ladies declared themselves well satisfied both with the Senator's courtesy and with the promises he had made them.

(Le Petit Bleu, 3 déc. 1909.)

Germany.

An extract from No. 11 of the organ of the German Woman Suffrage Association gives the following facts about the annual meeting at Munich, Oct. 23-26.

There was a change of the constitution on the agenda, which naturally took a long time for the meeting decide. Berlin and Frankfurt had proposed that only State-organisations should be eligible for direct affiliation to the National Federation (N. W. S. A.) and the Prussian delegates believed that affiliation of provincial associations would break the strength of the organisation: yet after a long debate, Saxony's amendment was passed and State- and Provincial Associations have an equal right of entering the Federation (Deutschen Verband). The Executive moved to give a vote to the Presidents of State Associations for this meeting, which was agreed.

The meeting resolved to make use of the new finance-reform projects for the Empire for starting a more intense agitation throughout the country and to send a deputation to the Chancellor of the Empire to protest against this new taxation in which

women are not consulted. Another resolution against the execution of Ferrer was voted to be sent to Madrid.

The first public meeting was also devoted to this question. The speakers were Miss Martha Zietz, Mrs. Cauer and Dr. Augspurg. A resolution was finally adopted. The second public meeting was on the new taxes proposed for the Empire, with Mrs. Breitscheid as speaker and a strong resolution of protest against taxation without representation was passed. The same success followed Mrs. Altmann-Gotheiner's address on the desirability of women representatives in all trade-boards and -councils. In the public discussion of the evening there was a debate on women's entering into the men's political parties, Miss Martha Zietz speaking for the affirmative and Dr. Augspurg for the negative. On the vote being taken Miss Zietz's opinion had a small majority.

During the year four new State Associations had been formed in Bavaria, Mecklenburg, Oldenburg and Prussia, besides many local societies. Mrs. Cauer was replaced by Mrs. Radel in the Executive. 6 Members of the Executive and 6 State Presidents are to be the delegates for Germany in the I. W. S. Alliance.

M. G. K.

Sweden.

During the past autumn a remarkably great number of lectures in behalf of our suffrage movement have been delivered especially in the East of Sweden by Mrs. F. Carlberg, and in the southern part of the country by Mrs. Tønning.

At the September meeting of the Stockholm section of I. W. S. A. we had the pleasure of receiving as a guest Miss Maikki Friberg, the well-known Finnish supporter of Women's Suffrage. On this occasion "The Swedish Women's Suffrage Song", with words by Ellen Kleman and music by Emil Sjögren, one of the most eminent composers in Sweden, was sung for the first time. At a meeting some time after Mrs. C. Sahl von Koch held a very interesting lecture on the suffrage movement in the United States. Mrs. S. v. K., who had studied the matter thoroughly on the spot, stated that a vigorous and successful work in behalf of our cause has of late been done in many states.

Further we have to note the important resolution of our Central Board: a communication to all temperance societies in Sweden propounding a collaboration at the municipal elections. These elections having partly a political importance through their influence on the composition of the 1st Chamber, it is to be hoped that the result of the proposition will be favorable. In this connexion it ought to be mentioned that the Central Board has also decided to edit a pamphlet: "The Temperance Problem and Women's Suffrage", illustrated by examples from those countries where political equality has been introduced. Among other matters treated at the last autumn meeting there was also the election of members of the Stockholm section of the Central Board, at which all the present members and supplementary members were re-elected.

The forming of new W. S. A. is progressing rapidly here. We have now come up to 157, all of which have joined the National Association.

It only remains to tell that the annual great meeting is to be held in Jónkóping on the 10th and 11th of Jan. 1910.

AGNES WESTIN.

Stockholm, Dec. 1909.