

— With human life so far from its ideal, there is no class that can safely delegate its interests to another class. It is because human nature is defective that human laws are made; and human nature being defective, it is never safe to trust it with irresponsible power.

GAIL HAMILTON.



— The pressure to obtain all individual rights for those who already have all individual liabilities and responsibilities, is so logical as to become well nigh irresistible.

Dr. MARY PUTNAM JACOBI.

Internat. Woman Suffrage Alliance

Bulletin or Monthly Correspondence.

— Dr. Anita Augspurg, was sentenced to a fine or imprisonment on 23 Nov. at Hamburg for having insulted the police, when in the January-riots she saw a policeman attack an innocent passer-by.

Great Britain.

EXCUSES FROM THE EDITOR.

I think I need not ask your excuse for beginning with Great-Britain again. We all know what magnet draws our eyes thither. But I wish to ask your forgiveness for some errors which sometimes will creep into my work by my desire of shortening and my lack of understanding law-terms.

You will all oblige me by corrections, which I will always publish in the next issue.

Mrs. Fawcett asks me to say that there are some inaccuracies in the letter from her, printed in last month's bulletin. In the first place Lady Frances Balfour is the President of the Central Society for Women's Suffrage, and Mrs. Fawcett is the chairman of Committee. The letter was intended, when written, simply as a private communication, and unfortunately in copying it for publication I inserted words which do not form part of the original. This was done inadvertently and Mrs. Fawcett hopes it will not lead to misunderstanding. I much regret the error that was made.

UNEXPECTED RELEASE OF EIGHT PRISONERS FROM HOLLOWAY.

Considerable surprise was caused at the headquarters of the Women's Social and Political Union on Saturday evening 24 Nov. by the sudden appearance, without any previous intimation, of the eight ladies who were committed to Holloway Gaol as the result of the disturbance in the House of Commons on October 23rd, and who have remained in prison ever since the following day.

The ladies are Miss A. Kenney, Miss Irene Miller, Mrs. Baldock, Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, Miss Adela Pankhurst, Miss Teresa Billington, Mrs. Edith Martyn and Miss Gawthorpe.

Early in the evening the imprisoned suffragists were astounded by the prison officials informing them that the Government had ordered their immediate release, although their sentences did not expire until Christmas.

No reasons were given for this order, and the ladies had not the slightest idea why their imprisonment had been so suddenly put an end to.

In their manner the ladies showed rather disap-

pointment than pleasure at their release, and would evidently have preferred to complete their term.

Mr. Herbert Gladstone, the Home Secretary, in a written reply to Mr. Clynes, M.P., with reference to the release of the suffragists from Holloway Jail, says they were liberated when they had served half their sentences by an exercise of the Royal prerogative of mercy, and adds that it would not be in accordance with constitutional practice to state the grounds of the advice which he tendered to his Majesty.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE AND THE PLURAL VOTING BILL.

On the motion of Lord R. CECIL (U., Marylebone) that the Act „shall come into operation on the first day of January after the next general election, unless before that time an Act shall be passed giving to women the franchise on the same terms and conditions upon which it is enjoyed by men, in which case it shall come into operation on the day fixed for the coming into operation of such last-mentioned Act.“

Mr. KEIR HARDIE said he gathered from the remarks of the Chancellor of the Exchequer that he did not think that the Government intended to enfranchise women before the next general election. Speaking, he said, for himself only, and not for his colleagues of the Labour Party, he (Mr. Hardie) would support the clause. He protested against the statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The question was one of supreme importance. Events out of doors ought to convince members that the question could not now be treated otherwise. There was the spectacle of the daughter of Richard Cobden suffering the hardships and indignities of prison in order to call attention to the Government's neglect of the question. This in itself should give members pause. It was said the question of plural votes had been before the country for twenty years. Yes, but the question of women's suffrage had been before the country twice as long, and the House had passed resolutions in favour of enfranchisement. At the last election women acted in support of the Liberals. That night they had been told there was no possibility of the injustice being remedied so long as the present Government was in office. True, the Chancellor of the Exchequer had not said that in so many words, but what he did say, was that if the clause was carried, the plural voter would still be in existence at the next election. It was to be hoped, therefore, that members of the House who

felt keenly on this question would be superior to party considerations. (Cheers.) The division showed for Lord Robert Cecil's clause, 50; against, 278; majority against, 228.

HUDDERSFIELD.

At Huddersfield by-election, where a three-cornered contest has been raging between Mr. Sherwell (Liberal), Mr. Russell Williams (Labour), and Mr. Foster Fraser (Conservative), Mrs. Pankhurst, Mrs. Martell, and Miss Pankhurst were the first in the field opposing the Government nominee. Thousands of handbills were distributed, committee rooms were engaged, the hoardings were placarded with huge bills, asking, "Who imprisoned Cobden's daughter? The Liberals". Meetings were held at every point of vantage throughout the district by some score of W. S. P. U. speakers, and a household canvass instituted. The campaign met with marked success. Early in the proceedings Mrs. Pankhurst was able to report that in two crowds of 2,000 and 5,000 there were but two and seven dissentients, respectively, to the resolutions. Statements of candidates on their attitude towards women's suffrage (even when favourable) have up to this time occupied the smallest and humblest place in electoral manifestoes. The longest we remember ran into seven words. *Nous avons changé tout cela.* Mr. Sherwell breaks new ground in an impassioned paragraph of 107 words, in which he eloquently declares his heart-whole adherence to the principle of Woman Suffrage, and even commits himself to a promise. He was, however, courteously informed that the forces of the W. S. P. U. arrayed against him could not be withdrawn unless he obtained from his Government a favourable declaration on the subject of the franchise.

On the 22nd, at the Horticultural Hall, a Demonstration under the auspices of the I. L. P. was held and largely attended, Mr. Keir Hardie, M. P., being in the chair. He pointed out that the passing of a Woman Suffrage Bill would give an enormous impetus to the obtaining of Adult Suffrage, which was at present blocked by the sex disability of half the nation. Mr. Stephen Walsh, M. P., said that if the tactics and policy of the W. S. P. U. at Huddersfield resulted in preventing the return of the Liberal candidate, the attention of the Government would be directed to the question of the Suffrage as it never had been before.

The most novel feature of the election was the presence of the Woman Suffragists. Their demonstrations enlivened the town and enormously stimulated the interest in the triangular contest. It cannot be doubted that they won extraordinary prestige by the cleverness, the good humour and resourcefulness of their platform tactics at Huddersfield. Every day on the Market Place, and at night on the Market Place and St. George's Square, they kept their banners flying and their speeches going. Huge crowds assembled, chiefly, no doubt, out of curiosity, to see and hear them, and it must be said that they completely conquered any disposition that may have existed towards rowdiness on the part of their audiences.

All three candidates announced themselves in favour of votes for women. The Women's Social and Political Union, however, directed their campaign entirely against the Liberal Party and the Liberal candidate. So far as their advice to the electors is concerned, as between the Tory and Mr. Williams they gave no recommendation.

On the other hand, the Lancashire and Cheshire Women's Trade Union strongly and earnestly

ranged themselves on the side of the Labour candidate, advising, in all their speeches, the electors to vote for Mr. Williams. Their services are entitled to be recorded and acknowledged in behalf of the Labour Party.

Mr. Keir Hardie says:

"I was exceedingly pleased with the cordial relations which I found existing between the Labour and Woman Suffrage movements. Miss Gore Booth and Miss Roper, and the other members of the Lancashire and Cheshire Women's Trades Council, were actively supporting Mr. Williams; whilst Mrs. Pankhurst, Mrs. Hanson, Mrs. Martell, and the other members of the Women's Social and Political Union, whilst conducting a tremendously successful independent campaign, were doing so with so much tact and judgment as to make them part of that stream of tendencies which is making for righteousness in the town. This is as it should be."

HUDDERSFIELD BY-ELECTION RESULT.

A. J. Sherwell (L.)	5,762
T. Russell Williams (L. R. C.)	5,422
J. Forster Fraser (C.)	4,844

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BANQUET IN HONOUR OF THE RELEASED LADIES.

On 11 December the women suffragists who were released from Holloway Jail last Saturday are to have a banquet in their honour at the Savoy Hotel.

A distinguished committee, among whom are Mrs. Anderson, M.D., Mrs. Ayrton, M.I.E.E., Lady Frances Balfour, Mrs. Hylton Dale, Viscountess Harberton, Mrs. Thomas Hardy, Mrs. Fawcett, Lady Grove, Hon. Mrs. Bertrand Russell, Miss Elizabeth Robins, Lady Strachey, Mrs. Bernard Shaw, Mrs. Alfred Stead, and Mrs. Pechey Phipson, M.D., has been formed to arrange a complimentary banquet to Mrs. Cobden-Sanderson and the other women suffragists who were committed to Holloway.

Mrs. Fawcett says:

"I need hardly say that I am convinced that the work of quiet persuasion and argument form the solid foundation on which the success of the Women's Suffrage Movement will be reared; and I, in common with the great majority of Suffrage workers, wish to continue the agitation on constitutional lines: yet we feel that the action of the prisoners has touched the imagination of the country in a manner which quieter methods did not succeed in doing. Many of us desire, therefore, to offer the Prisoners some public mark of the value we attach to their self-sacrificing devotion."

Late in the afternoon of Saturday November 24th the Women Suffragists still imprisoned in Holloway gaol were told that an order from the Home Office had come for their release. They quickly changed their prison clothing for the garments they wore when they came into gaol, and having signed the necessary form, found themselves out in the street, once more free women. They drove at once to the offices of the Women's Social and Political Union, where the Representatives of the Press quickly found them out and interviewed them on their prison experiences. On Sunday evening Mrs. Martyn, Mrs. Baldock, Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, Mrs. Montefiore, Miss Gawthorpe, Miss Billington, Miss Kenney and Miss Fenwick Miller, all appeared on the platform at a mass meeting in Caxton Hall Westminster, and were accorded an overwhelming reception. Though the Home Office and private members

have received great pressure from outside, demanding that a sentence, so manifestly over-severe, should be shortened, yet it is now known that special reasons induced the government finally to give way; and the actual release on Saturday was as much a surprise to the Suffragists themselves as to their friends. Subsequent event at the Huddersfield bye-election seem however to point to the fact that the ostentatious show of mercy was a bid for votes for the government candidate, who, we of the Women's Social & Political Union regret to report, was returned to Parliament on November 28th. On the other hand we have now our full strength of propagandists once again in the field, and the fight goes on all the more strenuously on our side, because some of us now know from actual inside experience, so much about our stupid, out-of-date, and obtuse prison system, that we feel, where men have so completely failed, women must now be given a chance.

DORA B. MONTEFIORE.

In a letter of remarkable force sent to the *Tribune* of the 22nd, Mr. Walter McLaren conclusively proves, in commenting on a previous letter written by Mrs. Byles contending for the postponement of Woman Suffrage until Adult Suffrage comes up for settlement, that such a policy is in direct enmity to Woman Suffrage, seeing that it would be postponing indefinitely, and certainly for the life term of the present Parliament, the whole question of the enfranchisement of women which is now ripe for legislation. Mrs. Despard writes to the *Clarion* a severe stricture on those who, being adult suffragists, wish to appear also the friends of woman franchise. She is in accord with those who think the removal of the sex disability will clear the way for the larger measure.

SUFFRAGIST ARRESTED OUTSIDE THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

A crowd of women, numbering between thirty and forty, gathered round the equestrian statue of Richard I, in old Palace-yard, outside the House of Lords, on 26 November and began to demonstrate in favour of "votes for women".

Miss Milne and Mrs. Despard mounted the pedestal, from which they addressed the crowd, who were for the most part sympathetic. The cheers brought the police on the scene, and as the suffragists refused to desist, the police threatened to make some arrests. "This is just what they wanted", said a constable on duty, "but we decided to oblige them by arresting only Miss Milne, who seemed to be causing the bother".

Miss Milne appeared before Mr. Horace Smith at Westminster Police-court on Tuesday, charged with "disorderly conduct" and "resisting her apprehension". A police-sergeant related the details of the disturbance.

Miss Milne gave evidence on her own behalf and then the magistrate fined her 10s. or seven days. She elected to serve the seven days imprisonment.

In view of this statement it is instructive to bear in mind Mrs. Despard's deposition: "I protest against this girl's arrest—I was the organiser of the demonstration. I took the most active part in it. I resisted the police"—and later she said, "I resisted the police more than Miss Milne did". Three witnesses at the police court said the police "evaded" Mrs. Despard and deliberately passed her over.

Canada.

HOW BILLS BECOME LAW IN THE CANADIAN PARLIAMENT (FEDERAL.)

Bills are either public or private. The former comprise all bills dealing with matters of a public nature, and may be introduced for the most part directly on motion. The latter comprise bills relating to the affairs of corporations or of individuals, and can be presented only on petition of the parties interested, and in conformity with the standing orders.

1. Public Bills:

As a general rule public bills may originate in either house — but.

"Bills for appropriating any part of the public revenue, or for imposing any tax or impost shall originate in the House of Commons."
(B.N.A. Act. (1867) sec 53.)

In the Senate: — "It is the right of every Senator to bring in a bill," (Rule 39) it is not necessary to give notice or ask leave; in the House of Commons, rule 39 provides "Every bill shall be introduced on motion for leave specifying the title of the bill, or upon motion to appoint a committee to prepare and bring it in." When leave has been granted the speaker proposes the next question — "That this bill be now read a first time", which is decided without amendment or debate — though the House may divide on the question. The motion being carried, one of the Clerks reads the title to the Bill, modern practice not requiring a reading *in extenso*.

Bills relating to trade, or involving expenditure or taxation cannot be introduced directly by motion, but must be initialled in Committee of the whole before the House will give leave for their introduction. The same rule applies to all measures involving a charge on the public or any class thereof.

When the bill has been read a first time, the speaker at once proceeds to propose the next question "When shall the bill be read a second time?" This is a purely formal motion (though the House may divide on the question), with the object of placing the bill on the orders for the second reading.

When the Bill comes up for its second reading, the principle of the bill is debated. If a resolution adverse to the bill be affirmed, or if the motion "that the bill be now read a second time" be simply negatived on a division, the measure will disappear from the order book; but any member may subsequently revive it by moving that the bill "be read a second time on next". It is customary for those opposed to a bill to move, on the motion for its second reading "that the word 'now' be struck out, and the words 'this day (six) months be added at the end of the question.'" This is commonly known as the "six months hoist" — and if carried, the bill disappears from the order paper, and cannot be introduced again at the then session unless, of course, it be prolonged beyond expectation, so that "this day (six) months" is actually reached before the close of the session.

The bill having been read a second time — the question then proposed "That the House go into committee on the bill on next."

This is a formal motion and generally passed *nem. con.*

When the day for committee is reached the speaker proposes the question — „That I do now leave the chair.” At this stage members opposed to the bill may move in amendment, that the House resolve itself into Committee that day three or six months, or may propose motions adverse to the principle or policy of the measure.

In the case of important bills requiring careful inquiry, it is a frequent practice to send them to a special or a select standing committee before referring them to a committee of the whole.

When the bill is reported from the select committee it goes upon the orders of the day for consideration in committee of the whole.

When the bill goes before committee of the whole it is considered clause by clause, but no debate is allowed on the principle of the bill. Each clause is separately discussed, and may be agreed to „as amended” — and new clauses may be added to the bill.

When the committee have fully considered the bill the chairman reports to the House — If the committee have made amendments to the bill, it is open to debate and amendment before it is ordered for a third reading; but if reported without amendment, it is forthwith ordered to be read a third time at such time as may be appointed by the House.

When the bill comes up for its third reading, it is competent to move that it be discharged and the bill withdrawn or that it be recommitted — but in the House of Commons no amendments, not being merely verbal, shall be made. In the Senate bills are frequently amended on the third reading without being recommitted. If the House does not agree to a resolution against the principle of the whole measure, or order the bill to be recommitted, it is finally passed.

When a bill has passed all its stages in one House, it is reprinted in proper form, and communicated to the other House by one of the clerks. If the bill is passed without amendment in the other House, a written message is returned to that effect — and the bill is ready to be submitted to the Governor General for his assent. If the bill is amended, a message is sent to the House in which it originated desiring its concurrence to the amendments and when this is given, the bill is ready for submission to the Governor General. If the amendments are not agreed to, they must either be abandoned by the second House, or the bill will be defeated for that session.

(Note As to proceedings see Bourinot Parliamentary Procedure pp 675—6 3 20 Edw.)

The bills passed by both Houses remain in the possession of the clerk of the Parliaments, until the Governor General comes down to give the royal assent. When this is done the several bills become law.

Private Bills.—Nearly all that has been stated in regard to the procedure on public bills is applicable to private bills, which must pass through the same stages. But private bills must originate by petition, are subject to special standing orders, and are generally referred to select committees possessing quasi-judicial as well as legislative functions for the protection of all interests involved in the proposed legislation. The promoters of a private bill must pay certain fees, and all persons whose interests are affected must have due notice of the measure. Either House of Parliament may refer a private bill or petition to the Supreme Court of Canada for examination and report.

(R.S.C. Cap 135 sec 38.)

Private, like public bills may be introduced in either House. A member of the House presents the petition—a clear day must elapse between the presentation and reception—when it is referred as a matter of course to the Committee on standing orders, and it is only after a favorable report by this Committee that the bill can be presented.

It would not serve any good purpose to detail the special standing orders, as nearly all private bill legislation is entrusted to „parliamentary agents” whose business it is to see that these orders are all complied with. It is sufficient for the purposes of this paper to note that a copy of the proposed bill must be deposited with the clerk 8 days before the meeting of the House, with a sum sufficient to pay for its printing and translation; and the bill must be introduced within the first four weeks of the session, unless the time is extended. Notice of application for a private bill must be published in the Canadian Gazette; and in certain instances (e. g. for incorporation of Railway or Telegraph Company) in some leading newspaper for five consecutive weeks.

It is the duty of the Committee on standing orders to see that all preliminaries have been complied with, altho it may recommend that certain requirements be dispensed with. The report of the Committee is almost invariably accepted by the House as cohesive, report is favorable. The member who has the bill in charge may request leave to present the bill, and thereafter all the rules that apply to public bills are applicable to private bills in their progress through the Houses.

When a private bill comes up for its second reading, counsel may be heard at the bar for or against the bill, but as a matter of practice, counsel only appears before the committee to which the bill may be referred. It is the duty of the Committee to which a private bill is referred to hear all parties interested.

When the select committee reports to the House — in the House of Commons the bill is placed on the orders of the day following the reception of the report for consideration in committee of the whole; but in the Senate the report of the select committee is considered as if it came from the committee of the whole, and if the amendments (if any) are agreed to, the bill is ordered for a third reading.

As before stated, the rules applicable to public bills apply to private bills, at all stages after their introduction in the House; but as in addition there are certain special standing rules and orders applicable to private bills, the promoters of such would in all cases be wise to entrust their proposed legislation to some regular parliamentary agent.

Germany.

The Society for W. S. in Bremen has appealed to all the women in the city not to give money for philanthropic ends to Church-societies, until a favorable answer shall have been received to the petition for Church-suffrage, which was presented, signed by 500 women.

DR. AUGSPURG'S PROCESS.

In January 1906 the City of Hamburg made a restriction in the right of suffrage. This caused riots in the streets on 17 January, in the repression of which the police showed more violence than tact. Our Vice-President, Dr. Anita Augspurg saw this, and wrote an article against such truly Russian

proceedings as she had witnessed, in the General-anzeiger. She was accused of libelling the police and her trial took place from 19—23 Nov. in Hamburg. The proceedings brought to light curious facts showing the attitude of the police against the people and of the judges and the court against women. The Chief Justice of the State (Staatsanwalt) said f. i. plainly that women witnesses were not to be credited equally with men. The verdict was a fine of 200 marks or 20 days imprisonment. We may be sure that our valiant Anita Augspurg will not fail to appeal to a higher Court.

Lida Gustava Heymann says, speaking of this trial: „Women of Germany, come and flood the tribunals, the galery is always accessible, even to us, „inferior human creatures.” There you can learn what men's logic, men's dispassionate wisdom and discrimination can achieve, there you can be struck with admiration of our jurists' deep psychological understanding, there you can see how men, who have been taught already at the university that women are inferior creatures, pronounce judgment on women.”

HAMBURG, Nov. 28th.—Dr. Anita Augspurg, the leader of the German „Suffragettes,” who was the other day ordered to pay a fine of 10 p. st. for insulting the Hamburg police, spoke yesterday at a largely attended public meeting on the subject of „Women and Criminal Law Procedure.” She severely criticized the German practice established „by men for men,” and said that if women were to meet with better treatment in the courts they should demand for themselves female judges, female magistrates, and jurywomen. Such reform, she said, was especially necessary in cases affecting women as a sex, including divorce cases and offenses committed by youthful persons.

No man, declared Dr. Anita Augspurg, could grasp woman's psychology so well as a woman, and the authority of the German courts could never be adversely affected, but would undoubtedly be improved by the introduction of the female element. At the close of the lecture, the meeting unanimously adopted a resolution expressing sympathy with „the women of England, fighting with such courage for their political rights,” and assuring them that their victory would also be a victory for the women of Germany.

(The Tribune.)

ARBEITSPLAN DES DEUTSCHEN VERBANDES FÜR FRAUENSTIMMRECHT.

Der Vorstand des deutschen Verbandes für Frauenstimmrecht unterbreitet seinen angeschlossenen Zweigvereinen und Ortsgruppen einen Arbeitsplan, in welchem praktische Arbeit in folgender Weise empfohlen wird: Alle öffentlichen, politischen Versammlungen sind von den Mitgliedern möglichst zahlreich zu besuchen. Es empfiehlt sich, anfangs die Mitglieder durch besondere Einladungen auf die Versammlungen aufmerksam zu machen. In den Städten, wo ein Landtag tagt, ist dessen Sitzungen, und in allen Städten den Magistratssitzungen so oft wie möglich beizuwohnen. Frauen haben sich den Männern ihrer Partei zu den Wahlarbeiten zur Verfügung zu stellen. Es ist festzustellen, welche politische und andere Stimmrechte den Frauen in Staat, Gemeinde und sonstigen Einrichtungen zustehen. Der Vorstand hat zu diesem Zwecke Fragebogen angefertigt, die den angeschlossenen Vereinen zur Verfügung stehen. Die wahlberechtigten Frauen sind durch die Mitglieder zur Ausübung ihrer Wahlrechte zu veranlassen. Endlich wird Verbreitung

von Stimmrechtskarten, Marken und Abzeichen und Aufklärung über den Wert dieser Propagandamittel, nebst Beschaffung von Geld für den Stimmrechtsfonds gewünscht.

Finland.

With a view to preparing the election-campaign for March 1907, the Swedish Popular Party, which in the system of proportional representation may reckon to have some 25 votes in the Diet, has established its political program. It contains among other things the abolition of the guardianship of husbands over their wives and universal suffrage, active and passive, in municipal elections. Until now this right only belongs to unmarried women, and even they are not eligible. A correspondent of Göteborgs Handelstidning has got an excellent impression from the S. P. P. congress. He says you could feel that it was not exclusively arranged by men: there was no random talking, and the self-restraint and parliamentary tact which were shown might well be called exemplary for men's congresses.

Austria.

On the first of December ended the discussion on the electoral law in the House of Deputies (Abgeordnetenhaus) and the law which gives universal, equal and direct suffrage to all adult male citizens has been adopted in third reading in the form recommended by the Committee on Electoral Reform (with small modifications) with an extraordinary majority. So universal suffrage for men is now a fact in Austria, for it is improbable that the House of Lords (Herrenhaus), whose consent is not yet obtained, should engage in a conflict with the Lower House and with the Crown, which has repeatedly used its influence in behalf of adult suffrage for men. There is in the House of Lords a strong party for plural voting, yet there is every chance of the ministry overcoming it.

Probably next spring the elections for a new Chamber after the new system will take place. In this great, reform which puts the whole government of Austria on a democratic basis, women have not gained the smallest profit. Not only it did not give them anything, but it even deprived them of wath small bit of right they possessed, viz, the suffrage for possessors of great landed property. This result was to be predicted, seeing what the attitude of the Committee had been with respect to woman suffrage. In the House there was not even a real discussion on the enfranchisement of women. The advocates of the measure in the Committee did no more than state their opinion, but had not the courage to make a definite proposal. The reporter who put the bill before the House thought everybody agreed that woman suffrage was not expedient now.

This result however, sad as it is, has not depressed the women but rather excited their zeal. For them the struggle for enfranchisement begins the moment that it is ended for the men. They, like every one else, have been caught by surprise by the suffrage bill. Nobody had foreseen that this reform was so near at hand, not even the government. The great event found the women totally unprepared, they had neither political organisation — forbidden them by the law — nor the necessary means and experienced workers for agitation. Driven together by the need of the hour, the suffragists made a hasty alliance, which achieved by the utmost exertions all that was possible. They held meetings, wrote

articles, presented petitions; and, although the tangible result is next to nothing, yet the moral result is evident and cannot easily be overestimated. Not more than a year ago, any one of us who publicly or even in private defended the enfranchisement of women, was sure to be ridiculed. The whole press took so hostile an attitude, that it was a most difficult affair to get an article or even a paragraph on woman suffrage into the newspapers. But this one year has sufficed to educate public sentiment.

However little reason women have to be content with the discussions in the Committee and in the Lower House, one thing must be conceded, that the discussions were kept in the most dignified tone. The cheap witticisms on women politicians, which were formerly so common, have not been advanced now from any side. This and the fact that a Minister declared that „he had taken the enfranchisement of women into serious consideration”, means already enormous progress for the cause of woman suffrage. Also the press has learnt to consider the movement for women's enfranchisement as a thing no longer to be ignored. Still from that side we do not as yet find the support we stand in need of. It is the women themselves who have gained most by the year's campaign: the experience obtained now will profit them in the future, and many of them have only now, in consequence of the agitation, found the courage to be publicly known as suffragists. We are now busily occupied in making up for neglect and first and foremost we strive to build up an active organisation which may facilitate common, concerted action and extensive agitation. The preparatory steps have been taken, and perhaps I may be able to give you notice next time of the establishment of an Association for Women Suffrage, at least of the women in Vienna. We will take care that the new elections, fixed, for next spring, may find us prepared for agitation. And we expect from the new House of Deputies that it will hasten to deliver us from the shame and the bondage of § 30 of the Law on Unions, which defends political organisation of women, as it were to show us its good-will against the time, when they shall think fit to confer on us the full right of citizenship.

H. HERZFELDER.

OUR CZECHISH SISTERS.

The Czech women in Prague and the rest of Bohemia have not sat still during all their sisters' struggles. Only it seems to be very difficult, not to say impossible, for the women of the different nationalities in the Austrian empire to unite their efforts for the common purpose. In November 1905 the Czechish women felt the same disappointment at being forgotten by the Committee for Universal Suffrage, of which the Hungarian report at Copenhagen made mention. They protested, and organised a club for woman suffrage at Prague. Then they took part in the great demonstration in Vienna for Universal suffrage, but on their first big meeting 10 Dec. 1905, where a manifest to the people and the demand of abolition of the ominous § 30 were adopted, they had the disappointment of seeing the socialist women leave their ranks. The 22 000 signatures of a petition to the Reichstag on 20 Febr. 1905 to urge their demands had no effect. Yet they were not discouraged and tried to come into touch with the Polish and Slovenic women in the empire. They never cease to lay their claims before the deputies; often with success on the part of the Czechish members, as they proudly state; and now

they are sending a circular to each individual member of the Reichstag, refuting baron Bienerth's well-worn arguments of the leap into the dark and the military service, and asking each depute'e support for political equality.

Belgium.

In Belgium the laws are made by the Chambers, composed of men only. The king has the right either to adopt or to reject the proposals of the Chambers: that is the right of sanction. The two Chambers are the House of Representatives and the Senate. The members of both are elected by men only. Of a population of nearly six millions there are about three millions of male inhabitants, one million of whom are electors. Of the three millions of female inhabitants, there is *not one elector*, whilst uneducated men, or worse still, drunkards, enjoy the right of voting. As to the women, who have to obey the laws, to pay the taxes and are responsible for their crimes to jurisdiction, they are debarred from the right of voting, like minors, aliens, criminals and brothel-keepers.

If Queen Victoria of England, Queen Wilhelmina of Holland and Maria Christina of Spain had been of Belgian nationality, they would, in their country, have lacked every right of suffrage. Yet they have governed nations with intelligence and wisdom.

Our electoral law, reformed in 1894, has extended the right to vote for the Legislative Chambers to a greater number of citizens. Before this reform, the State-Constitution considered the payment of a certain tax (minimum 40 francs) an indispensable condition for the suffrage. The *census* thus debarred from voting a number of intelligent and educated citizens who did not pay that amount of tax.

The revision of the Constitution in 1894 conferred the suffrage on all male citizens who are not unworthy. It has introduced *universal suffrage for men*, but diminished its effect by attributing two or three votes to those who possess certain warrants of age, fortune or capacity. That is called *plural voting*. Before the electoral reform there were only 135,000 electors in Belgium. According to the lists of 1894/5 the number of electors for the Chamber is 1,370,687, possessing a total of 2,111,127 votes.

This political reform has only profited men. The women have remained outlaws. The question of Woman Suffrage has not been so much as brought up in the parliamentary discussions which preceded the revision of the constitution. And yet many Belgian women possess the qualifications of age, fortune and education, which give to the men one, two or even three votes.

Such is the actual status of Belgian women with respect to legislative suffrage. They are as well deprived of the provincial and municipal suffrage.

Moreover, women in commerce, employers and employed, have no participation in the election of Courts of Commerce and of members of the Councils of Trade, which respectively have to deal with contests between merchants and between employers and employed. Yet there are now in Belgium more than half a million women subject to the jurisdiction of these professional courts, and their disability is neither just nor reasonable.

A bill which extends to women the right of voting for Trades-Councils is soon to be discussed in the Chamber. Several Belgian societies for women's rights (Society for the Amelioration of woman's Lot, League for Women's Rights, Feminist

Union, League of Socialist Women in Ghent, Féminisme Chrétien) have circulated in the country a petition for this useful reform, which has already obtained a considerable number of signatures of men and women.

Indeed, is it not just that the women, who contribute so large a share to the wealth of the country by their trade or industry, be no longer debarred from the elections for special courts, entrusted with settling disputes in the profession or trade which they exercise?

Some conservative people have — a little naively — expressed their fears that the right to vote for the Trades Councils might prove to be „the first step on the dangerous road to women's full enfranchisement”. May these defenders of ancient injustice be right in their conjectures. That is my most ardent wish for us, Belgian women!

JULIE GILAIN L. L. D.
Secr. Feminist Union.

Denmark.

The bill which, among other things contained a project for giving women, married and unmarried, municipal suffrage and eligibility on the same terms as men, was lately discussed in the Joint Committee (see November-bulletin.)

As the Lower House (Folketing) sent the bill up to the Landsting (Upper House) last month, in the first reading the members expressed themselves very favorably. But in the second reading on 28 November, the conservatives proposed to give the bill back its first form in which it had been adopted by the Landsting. So it was necessary to have the bill referred to the Joint Committee whose deliberations are not accessible to the public. The attitude, taken until now by the Landsting, in reference to this matter, makes us fear that married women and servants (men and women) will be shut out from suffrage and eligibility. By the Socialists and Democrats in the Landsting the remark was made how strange a thing it was to discuss municipal suffrage with shut doors. But these two parties being the minority, the conservatives' proposal was adopted and the bill sent back to the Folketing.

In this country many new clubs for Woman Suffrage are being formed. The Servants Trade Union has established one under the name of Queen Margaret's Club.

The Danish Federation for Woman Suffrage will hold a public meeting in January to which suffragists from other countries are invited. The Queen Margaret's Club will also count it an honour, if foreign guests will come to its Tuesday — evening — meetings. For this purpose one may write to Fru L. Nörlund, Ahlefeldtsgade 28, Copenhagen.

The Danish Woman Suffrage Association had an Extra General Meeting on Dec. 4th.

It was meant to be held for the election of a new Executive Committee, but as the old association: „Dansk Kvindesamfund” with its 35 organisations had expressed its wish of a real co-operation and joining the Suffr. Ass. in the month of January, it became a general wish to keep the same officers as before, until this affiliation had taken place, which was agreed to.

„Politisk Kvindeforening” had retreated from the Suffr. Ass. to form an independent Suffrage Society but three new Wom. Suffrage organisations had entered: 1) „Holbaek Suffr. Organisation”, 2) „Valgerda” and 3) „Queen Margarets” Organisation.

Many of the old Guilds and Trade-Unions have formed „Suffrage Departments” in this way: that if such a guild has 700 members out of these 40 suffragists form the Guild's Suffr. Department. This promises a growing interest for Woman Suffr. among the members. Other Guilds and Trade-Unions have used less radical methods to get work for suffrage in their organisations. It is most obvious how this summer's congress has blown a fresh breeze in the sails of our woman suffrage work, and we promise ourselves good results. It was a pleasure to notice the intense interest in the work shown by the delegates at the Meeting.

As experience has shown that wherever the international badge of „Justice” is worn it gives rise to questions and discussion and therefore agitates for woman's suffrage, it would be most desirable to have the wearing of the badge extended within your circle, so that the words of Mrs. Chapman Catt may be realized: „Every National Suffrage Association ought to adopt it as its own.”

In order to facilitate this to you it has been decided, with the approval of Mrs. Chapman Catt, to publish the information that payment for the emblems need not be made till three months after receipt of the badges, and the price has been reduced in such a way that, when a great number are required at once, it is only the first 50 ones that cost 40 Öre each, the other ones only 35 Öre a piece. Besides a deduction of 2% is made, when the order is for 500 copies and more, and of 3% when it is for 1000.

This is done in order that every one may acquire the badge, as it is of importance to make the agitation which is embodied in „Justice” itself as vigorous as possible; and when, like a chain, it encircles the earth, the symbol of Justice will surely clear the way for the demand for Justice.

Although, as Mrs. Chapman Catt writes, „it was voted that the badge should be made in bronze so that every woman who believes in woman suffrage might be able to buy it.”, it is also permitted to have it in other metals, and therefore the prices of the following kinds have also been reduced:

Silvered	£ 0 0 6	12 Cents
Gilt	0 0 16	20 -
- with blue enamel border	0 1 10	45 -
Real Silver	0 1 -	24 -
Real Gold 8 carat	0 6 7	1 \$ 60 -
- - 14 carat	0 13 3	4 - 20 -

postage to be added, if the above are not sent together with the bronze badges.

THE BADGE.

An International Badge, bearing the figure of Justice, and the words „Jus Suffragii”, was adopted by the Alliance at Copenhagen. In order that this badge shall be truly International, each National Suffrage Association should adopt it for its own, and suffragists throughout the world should be encouraged to purchase and to wear it. It was voted that the badge should be manufactured in bronze in order that it might be within the reach of every woman who believes in woman suffrage.

Orders for these badges may be sent to the designer, who will also manufacture them: Fru *Johanne Pedersen-Dan*, Griffenfeldtsgade 39, Copenhagen, Denmark.

(From the report of the President, Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, of the „*International Woman Suffrage Alliance*” on the meeting at Copenhagen 1906.)

Sweden.

One of the Stockholm dailies the widest spread of all the liberal papers — has opined its column for an *enquête*, arranged by the Stockholm Women's Suffrage Society. It is gratifying to note that most of the contributions to the *enquête* are not only in favour of suffrage for women in general, but they express the desirability of solving this question in connection with the widening of the suffrage for men; many also advocate the eligibility of women. Among the contributors are many well-known names. There are members of both chambers, representing all political parties, there are university men and medical men, government officials, head masters of educational establishments, chirmen, lawyers.

The new radical semi-weekly „*Svenska Folket*” has taken up the woman suffrage question and allows space in each number for articles on this subject.

As to actual politics the position is very much the same now as it was a month ago. But *one* great change has taken place. The Social-Democratic party has published its new programme of action which included women's suffrage and eligibility.

While the other parties are forming their lines of action, the women all over the country are exhibiting the most ardent energy in order to make way for the solution of their questions as part of the Universal Suffrage which will be the burning question of the coming *Riksdag* session. Meetings are being held, new local societies formed, papers of all colours especially in the country — districts — swarmed with articles, and in scores of places special days are appointed for collecting names for the monster-petition. The 1st of December, which bears the King's name, Oscar, and which is celebrated all over the country, has in many places been chosen for that purpose. The results are not yet known, but there is every reason to believe, that the sum of names, thus collected, has grown considerably these last few weeks.

Italy.

LUIGI LUCCHINI'S OPINION.

The celebrated jurist and politician Lucchini, in a conference at Villafranca has made a solemn pronouncement in favour of woman suffrage. He refuted the pretended inferiority of woman and the well-worn military argument. He said: women are not summoned for military state-service, but then their whole existence is a perpetual campaign, which requires courage and resistance. Battles and adversity fall to her lot every day; she works and suffers as much as and more than man. Her methods and exigencies are different from man's, yet there is no difference in the interest and importance of either's work.

THE SENTENCE OF THE CASSATION COURT.

The reader will remember that the inscription of women on the lists of electors, admitted by some Italian cities, was ruled by some Courts of Appeal to be contrary to the State constitution. This was the judgment of the Courts of Naples, Brescia and Venice, whilst the Court of Appeals at Ancona had decided otherwise on Mr. Mortara's advice. Now the Cassation Court, the supreme tribunal, had to pronounce the final sentence in this matter on 4 Dec.

Mr. Lollini, speaking for the Court of Ancona showed that although the law on the municipal franchise speaks of *male* electors, the law on the political franchise does *not* mention any sex.

Art. 24 of the State Constitution stipulates that all inhabitants of the Kingdom (*regnicoli*) shall be equal as to political rights. And so at Ancona the Court had decided that the registration of women voters for parliament was lawful.

Senator Quarta protested, saying that if art. 24 were to be interpreted in favour of the women, no legal objection could be invoked to women being nominated, or even elected, in all sorts of civil and military charges, yea in de magistrature! This struck terror into the hearts of all those present; they probably felt their seats give way and their standing menaced by the crowds of eminently capable women which they saw in imagination assault their high positions, and unanimously they disapproved the Ancona decision and applauded Mr. Quarta, when he brought forward the novelty that to have women in office and women electors was . . . „a leap in the dark”, and that our grandfathers and grandmothers in 1848 and 1870 had surely never thought of such a thing.

So the sentence of the Cassation Court has again deprived women of this legal resource to find their way to their rightful share in the management of what concerns them not a whit less than their brothers.

It is only a postponement, for the Italian women are awake and busy building up their organisation.

Subscribers!

There is still a demand for subscribers, 400 being needed, if we wish to continue the bulletin in the present form. There are at this moment 324. Should the vote decide that the correspondence is to go on in the way it does now, I would urgently request my correspondents to be in time — that means *before the sixth* of each month. Else I shall have to postpone the date of appearance. Some news came to late. Germany f. i., to the regret of all readers, I suppose. Hungary did not arrive at all; nor Australa neither, but that is excused by the distance.

Requests for sample-copies are always welcome at the address of the Editor:

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