

# JUS SUFFRAGII,

MONTHLY ORGAN OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

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

FOURTH YEAR No. 7.

MARCH 15, 1910.

Die Frauenbewegung — und zwar die bürgerliche wie die proletarische — hat in den dreissig Jahren, seitdem mein Buch erschienen, viel erreicht. Es dürfte kaum eine zweite Bewegung geben, die in so kurzer Zeit so günstige Resultate erzielte.

AUGUST BEBEL.



In the first place I hold that, without doubt, political enfranchisement will bring to women themselves a fuller development of insight and wider interest in public affairs, of which their work for suffrage is already a brilliant proof.

ANN MARGRET HOLMGREN.

PRICE PER YEAR 2 DUTCH FLORINS (= 3 Sh. 6 d. = 0.82 \$ = 3 Kr. = 4.25 Frs. = 3½ Mk.)

## Announcements.

Our Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Adela Stanton Coit, 30 Hyde Park Gate, London S.W., asks us to say, that, it would greatly facilitate her work, if Hon. Associated Members, when forwarding their subscriptions by Postal Order, would at the same time write her a Post Card, saying that they are doing so.

At present postal orders arrive from all parts of the world; if no advisory note has been received the sender of the money cannot be identified and no receipt can be sent. English Postal Orders do not bear the name of the sender, but only the name of the town where the money was posted.

The Hon. Treasurer now holds Postal Orders from Wiesbaden, Hamburg (for 1 Sh. 3d.), Copenhagen (for 3 Sh. 9 d.), Haarlem and Berlin, for which she cannot send receipts — not knowing who sent them.

### THE HUNGARIAN W. S. A. AND THE THREATENED ANNEXATION OF FINLAND.

When in February last I received the following circular from Hungary, addressed to the Officers and the Pres. of the Auxiliaries of the Alliance, I hastened to communicate it to those for whom it was destined. The Officers living far apart, no discussion and mutual understanding was possible; I could only ask the opinion of each separately. And as for the National Associations, up to now only Sweden and Holland have answered my request to let me know what action they meant to take.

*To the Officers of the International Women's Suffrage Alliance, and the Presidents of the Affiliated Societies.*

At an Executive Meeting on January 22nd, our Association resolved to initiate an international movement to express sympathy with the Finnish nation, and to protest against the action of Russia, which threatens to suppress the Finnish nationality by violence. In order to carry out this resolution, we address ourselves in the first place

to our Alliance, which cannot fail to sympathise with Finland in its threatened fate.

Women of all countries have protested against the violence done to „Suffragettes”. Many have spoken strongly at indignation meetings against the assassination of Ferrer. But these crimes are small when compared to the violence perpetrated by Russia towards Finland, one of the most promising modern centres of civilisation.

Finland is by law a self-governing country. As such, it has reached so high a stage of civilisation that it bestows equal rights upon men and women alike. Russia, where thinly-veiled autocracy makes arbitrary force into law is now seeking to apply this law by incorporating within itself the quiet, peaceloving Finnish nation.

The Press of the world daily reports new developments of Russian tyranny in Finland. The Tsar levies arbitrary taxes there, exacting tribute for Russian military purposes. He proclaims martial law, invests Finland with Russian garrisons, and announces his intention of annexing this independent country, and reducing it to the level of a Russian province.

Finland means more to the women of Europe than any other country on the continent. It was the first European nation which honoured itself by enfranchising its women. Therefore we feel doubly grieved at its threatened subjugation. But it is not enough that women should feel sympathy and grieve for Finland; they must come to the rescue, must stand by the Finns, and show them that women have the courage of their convictions. For this purpose, the Hungarian Suffragists suggest:—

(1) That all Associations and individuals who hold it a matter of conscience to avert, if possible, an impending danger, and not to wait until cruel deeds have been done and irreparable wrongs perpetrated, should take timely action against the menaced destruction of this nation. They should, through the press and all other possible channels of agitation, use their utmost efforts to call attention to the desperate situation of Finland, and appeal to the consciences of all equitable people.

(2) That meetings should *immediately* be held everywhere, at which men and women of all



classes and parties should unite in a protest against the tyrannous plans of Russia, and in an expression of sympathy and admiration for the steadfast courage with which Finland bears its fate. Resolutions to this effect should be presented to the nearest Russian Embassy.

Our Association requests that a short report of your proceedings and a copy of your resolutions on this matter be sent to us, addressed to Miss Rosika Schwimmer, Budapest VII, Istvan ut. 67.

Women, who all over the world are struggling to place right above might, ought to be unanimous in offering moral support where a great injustice is threatened. The sense of international solidarity urges us to express our abhorrence of this Russian atrocity, and our admiration of Finland's heroic courage.

Feministák Egyesülete  
Budapest, Febr. 1910.

Mrs. Chapman Catt, Miss Furuhielm and myself wish to endorse Hungary's proposal of holding meetings and Mrs. Stanton Coit is not opposed, wherever it proves to be possible. Mrs. Fawcett and Mrs. Lindemann disapprove of meetings and suggest instead a memorial from the I. W. S. All., which the former would address to Finland expressing the sympathy of women's suffragists, and the latter to the Russian Government protesting against its action in the name of women. Miss Bergman is against meddling with the interior affairs of other nations.

Of course much will depend on the course events will take, for this week the new Finnish Diet was opened and no intention of annexation has been as yet officially announced by the Russian Government.

Two of our National Auxiliaries sent me an answer. Sweden does not wish to interfere with Russia and Finland, as any action on the part of the Sw. W. S. A. might harm instead of help Finland and give rise to difficulties for the Swedish Government. The Netherlands have similar reasons for refusing to comply with the request from Hungary, as will be seen below.

In this connection I may perhaps call the readers' attention to our bye-law, printed on page 149 of the Report of our London Convention, which says: — "The I. W. S. All. by mutual consent of its auxiliaries, stands pledged to observe absolute neutrality on all questions that are strictly national; to respect the independence of each affiliated association, and to leave it entirely free to act on all matters within its own country". —

Now, as I take it, the point to be decided here is: Is the annexation of Finland by Russia a national question? And I think it is not; at least not until Finland has become a province of the Russian Empire, against which absorption we would protest. At present it is a country and a nation, and suffragists can never forget that it was the first country in Europe to introduce political equality and that it has thereby gained an inalienable right to our deepest gratitude. This nation is the model and example which we suffragists are constantly pointing to,—and it is proposed to blot it out from the list of nations! The Finnish *Kvinno aksforbund* is auxiliary to our Alliance; can we stand by unmoved, when Finland is about to lose its autonomy?

MARTINA G. KRAMERS,  
Secretary I. W. S. Alliance.  
Rotterdam, March 1910.

*Literature.* May I remind the readers that every Auxiliary is entitled to have its new publications mentioned here. Mostly Sweden is the only one to avail itself of this opportunity. EDITOR.

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Mrs. B. Borrmann Wells, member of the Women's Freedom League, will mail her new leaflet on *America and Woman Suffrage* free to any reader of "Jus Suffragii" who will send her a stamp to cover postage to 1 Robert Street, Adelphi London W.C. It contains the refutation of the old objections by "stubborn facts" of experience in Wyoming, Colorado, Utah and Idaho, together with testimonials from Governors, etc.

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The Swedish W. S. A., 6 Lästmakaregatan, Stockholm, will send to applicants, for the price of 1 Kr. + postage, the beautiful *Festskrift paa Ann Margret Holmgrens 60-aarsdag*, which it has edited, as may be seen below.

The Ass. is again spreading on a large scale a leaflet *Hur kunna gifta kvinnor förvärva kommunala rättigheter?* in which is shown in the clearest way the application of Mrs Wicksell's discovery to the registering of women as municipal voters. "With the right to a personal tax-paper comes the duty of tax-paying, but at the same time municipal vote and eligibility".

*Lecturers.* The reports from Denmark and the Netherlands show the great profit derived by our cause from foreign lecturers. Yet no country sent me news on planned lecturing tours except Denmark, where the foreign Secretary of the Valgretsforbund, Miss Daugaard, *Studiestraede 49, Copenhagen*, is lecturing all over the country on "The Cause in England" illustrating her lecture by 45 lantern-slides.

### Great Britain.

During the past month, the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies has continued to do a great deal of active, enthusiastic work all over the country. Neither societies, nor organizers, nor speakers have relaxed their efforts, in spite of the great strain put upon them by the General Election. The membership of existing societies is increasing by leaps and bounds, and constant requests for affiliation come to us from newly formed societies. To satisfy the demand for speakers we should need a far larger army than we have at our command at present.

From 108 constituencies, Voters Petitions have been sent up, to be presented, for the most part, by the Members of Parliament representing those constituencies. Until all have been presented we shall not know the exact number of signatures, but it is considerably over a quarter of a million.

To what extent we are justified in hoping that the end of the struggle is not far distant must for the present remain a matter for conjecture. That there are grounds for hope seems to be borne out by a statement made in a letter to the "Daily News", that on the lowest computation there are 408 members of the House of Commons publicly pledged to support the cause of Women's Suffrage; and this hope is further supported by the following words which appeared a few weeks ago in "The Nation", a journal not as a rule friendly to the cause. — "The general intellectual assent of the community to the principle of the suffrage indicates one of the most absolutely finished causes that we know of in politics."

MARION PHILIPS.

At the close of my notes last month, I mentioned the truce which has been entered upon by members of the Women's Social and Political Union, and said that the Union had decided not to again undertake militant action until the Government themselves have shown themselves to be blind to all other forms of agitation. This truce is still being carried on; and the Government have, on their side, made several concessions to the women. The two Suffrage prisoners, Miss Selina Martin and Miss Elsie Howey were released from prison two weeks before the end of their sentences; and Miss Bertha Brewster, who had been released on bail in order that her appeal against her sentence might be heard in the High Court, is also at liberty; the Home Secretary preferring to remit the sentence of six weeks, with hard labour, passed upon her for breaking some windows to the value of 3Sh.2d. last August, rather than allow the discreditable facts to come again into a Court of Law. Meantime, the Women's Social and Political Union have been concentrating their energies upon a great Women's Mission.

Although women are severely punished and sentenced to long terms of imprisonment if they break even one window in the course of the Suffrage agitation, yet personal assault goes unpunished when it is done by men upon women in the course of a political campaign. Three charges against men for assault, and one against a doctor (a member of the Town Council) for damaging a flag and assaulting some members of the Women's Social and Political Union, were brought before the Magistrate at Southport a few weeks ago. In spite of the evidence, which showed unmistakably that the women were seriously assaulted, the Magistrate dismissed the cases.

February 28th brings the fourth Financial Year of the Women's Social and Political Union to a close. At the date of writing, the fourth annual report is not available, but I hope to deal with it in my notes next week.

During the year which has just closed, over £ 40,000 (800,000 marks) have been raised by the W.S.P.U., as against £ 20,000 raised and spent in the previous year. EMMELINE PETHICK LAWRENCE.

Miss Neilans of the Women's Freedom League was released from Holloway Prison after serving a three months' sentence and undergoing forcible feeding. The appeal of Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Cobden Sanderson and other members against last November's sentences of three weeks imprisonment for petitioning Mr. Asquith was decided adversely, but the fines were paid for them. The following letter was presented to Mr. Asquith signed by the officers of the League.

"The responsibilities of Government have again been entrusted to you, and the political fate of the women of the country is in your hands. During your last term of office, having behind you the greatest majority of modern times, you followed a course which was the primary cause of much disturbance and discontent, and which brought upon the Government widespread opposition.

"Present circumstances are very different from those under which you last held office. In making your plans to meet the new conditions, we desire to point out to you that it would be in the interests of your party and of the country to make concessions to those who, in demanding Women's Suffrage, are asking for a measure of Liberal legislation.

"At the opening of the new Parliament we of

the Women's Freedom League, as well as our sister society, have taken the first step towards a truce. We have decided to refrain from militant protest until your Government has had a fair opportunity of stating its intentions. We have called this truce in the honest endeavour to give you every opportunity to settle this great question. We do not desire to resume our militant tactics, but in the event of your refusal our duty is clear.

"Now is your opportunity. If you take it, you will be responsible for the carrying into law of a great act of justice and for bringing to a conclusion a struggle which may otherwise have much graver consequences. If you do not take it, the responsibility for the rebellion of women will be yours.

"We require that a Government declaration shall be made at once to the effect that Women's Suffrage legislation shall be undertaken by the Government itself in this opening session of Parliament. A clear and explicit statement to this effect is necessary. We ask this promise of you as a right. We wait peaceably to see if you are great enough to do a great deed, to rise above prejudice and personal considerations, to put on one side lesser things, and to do this act of national justice. We wait, and hope that the issue may be peace."

Subsequently a special meeting was held at Caxton Hall at which Resolutions were passed and forwarded to the Government.

The W. F. L. has held throughout the country a special effort week from the 21st to the 28th February and in London numerous meetings and original entertainments were arranged including a very successful open air demonstration on Sunday the 27th in Trafalgar Square, which was attended by over 2,000 people. Substantial additions to the funds resulted.

Although we are under a flag of truce we are not resting, for the future has to be carefully watched and prepared for. To quote Mrs. Despard's eloquent words: "The political situation is too heavily charged for things to remain long as they are. Another electoral contest is bound to come. We must prepare for it by every means in our power. We are busy already. In Ireland, Scotland, in Wales, in the North of England campaigns have been opened. In and about London we are working vigorously. There is enough more than enough for every one of us to do during this time of what may seem inaction to some people. So I say to you, let the moment of our apparent check — for it is only apparent — be the moment of our supreme, unflinching confidence in our Cause, in one another, in that great new womanhood which is waiting to be revealed.

B. BORRMANN WELLS.

The Men's League for Women's Suffrage held a crowded public meeting in the Queen's Hall on Febr. 22nd. The League has now fifteen branches and it has held 500 indoor meetings during the year, besides innumerable out-door meetings. Mr. Herbert Jacobs was in the chair, and all the speakers, the Earl of Lytton, Mr. Anuerin Williams M.P., Mr. Hugh Law M.P., Mr. Chancellor M.P., and Mr. Laurence Housman, were much applauded. Finally this resolution was unanimously adopted;—"That the exclusion of women from the Franchise is both unjust to women and detrimental to the best interests of the State".

The Committee of the Irish Women's Suffrage and Local Government Association met on Thurs-



day, 17th Febr. at Dublin. The Bill enabling women to be elected upon County and Borough Councils has been drafted and entrusted to Mr Hugh A. Law, M.P., for introduction in the House of Commons, if practicable, during the present session.  
M. G. K.

### France.

The claim for the enfranchisement of women is constantly gaining ground, and the impetus which the formation of our W. S. A. gave it last year, is felt in the Association itself as well as outside. This may be considered a happy result of its formation. The „Union Française” itself is growing apace. It has got the promise from one of our principal periodicals, *La Revue*, that it will publish the inquiry on eminent opinions on woman suffrage which the International Woman Suffrage Alliance requested each auxiliary to institute among prominent men in their country. The most illustrious men of France have taken the pains of communicating to Mme Schmah, the President of the W. S. A., their opinion and its foundations, and their letters constitute together an interesting and important volume, which, after having been published partly in *La Revue*, will appear separately.

The approaching general elections in May are a quite natural opportunity for propaganda for woman suffrage, but according to its adopted policy, the Association will only take part in the campaign in a prudent way. It intends to put to the candidates a list of questions touching, not on politics in general and women's rights as a whole, but solely on Mr. Dussaussoy's bill on municipal rights, which is now pending before the Chamber. We shall not mention other planned manifestations, all of a quiet character, before the time comes to carry them out. The W. S. A. has already begun action by spreading a pamphlet, *Woman Suffrage in France*, written and edited by its Propaganda Committee.

On March 13 the W. S. A. proposes to hold its first annual meeting which is going to introduce important modifications into its constitution. It will proclaim Societies eligible for membership and so become a federation much more largely representative of the suffragist movement.

The National Council of Women had its quarterly meeting on Febr. 20. The report of the Suffrage Section spoke of the step taken by its President, Mrs. Georges Martin, with the Prime Minister and the President of the Republic, in presenting them Mrs. Maria Vérone L. L. D.'s report on woman suffrage, prepared for the Toronto congress. The Labour Section mentioned the success which it has lately obtained by a decree of Mr. Viviani, the Labour Minister, which prohibits night work in women's workshops. The National Council has long advocated this reform. The Literature and Art Section newly formed by its President, Mme Cruppi, gave a review of its programme.

The big meeting which we announced last month will take place on Friday March 11th in the Hôtel des Sociétés Savantes. It is organised by the French Woman Suffrage Association, the League for Women's Rights, the Society for Bettering Women's Condition, the Feminist Study Club, the Fraternity League, and Mr. Sembat M. P. will occupy the chair. The speakers are: Mrs. d'Estournelles de Constant, Senator; Beauquier M. P., President of the Parliamentary Club for Women's

Rights; Ferdinand Buisson M. P.; Paul Deschanel M. P.; Louis Marin M. P.; de Pressensé M. P., President of the Human Rights League; Joseph Ménard, Town Councillor; Heppenheimer, Town Councillor, Mr. Fournière, editor of the *Socialist Review*; Léopold Lacour, and Mmes Hubertine Auclert, Oddo Defflou, Nelly Roussel and Maria Vérone.

On the other hand the League for Women's Rights has issued the following petition:—

„The undersigned, painfully aware of the fact that the Law on Old Age Pensions for Workmen forgets the housekeeper and family-mother, request the lawmakers, *which ever be the system adopted* for those pensions, to introduce into the said law an amendment providing for the possibility that the workman's pension be transferred to his widow, in case on her husband's death she has reached the legal age to receive a pension.”

The Women's Study Club under the presidency of Mrs. Oddo Defflou has to report a success. Mr. Viviani, the Labour Minister, occupied the chair in one of its sessions devoted to the Illegitimate Father's Liability Bill and gave an address. This is the first time that a Cabinet Minister consents to fill this office in a women's club. The Minister promised to hasten the introduction of the Bill into Parliament.

*Communication from the French W. S. A.*

### Germany.

When the Prussian Diet discussed the proposed electoral reform, the German W. S. A., the Prussian W. S. A. and the Women's Liberal League sent in petitions claiming universal suffrage secret and equal, for men and women alike. To a protest meeting at Berlin, called in Busch's circus by prominent men of science and politicians, the German W. S. A. sent the following telegram: „The German W. S. A. unites with the meeting in protesting against the proposed changes in the electoral law of Prussia called a „reform”. The W. S. A. claims for Prussia secret ballot and equal suffrage for men and women. It protests against the limitations suggested by the Chancellor of the Empire and also against the decree of the Berlin police, claiming for the citizens of Germany the right enjoyed by those of Great Britain of giving a spontaneous expression to their political opinions by meetings in streets and squares, as long as they cause no public disturbance, whereas the German police authorities are constantly interfering and thereby causing damage.”

In Frankfurt on Febr. 13 there were three protest-meetings, of which one was held by the Frankfurt W. S. A. There Mrs. Minna Cauer, President of the Prussian W. S. A., addressed the public, sharply criticising the so-called „electoral reform” and the Prime Minister. She also presided, when in Berlin on the 15th the Prussian and Berlin W. S. A.'s held a grand indignation meeting in the Armin Hall. On the same day at Schöneberg-Berlin the Women's Liberal League (Liberale Frauenpartei) had called a protestmeeting at which Maria Lischnewska occupied the chair. A strongly worded resolution expressed the feelings of the audience.

It is impossible to report the numerous protests and manifestations or even to enumerate them, for the public indignation broke out in different political organisations of men and women.

The Badonian W. S. A. sent a petition to the Diet of Baden requesting that on the occasion of the revision of the Municipal Law women should be granted the same privileges of suffrage and eligibility as men.

(Zeitschrift für Frauenstimmrecht.)

Im preussischen Abgeordnetenhaus bei der Debatte über die Wahlrechtsreform sagte Genosse Ströbel u. m.: „Der Herr Abgeordnete von Richtofen sprach soeben von dem Damenwahlrecht, er stellt es als etwas ganz Absurdes hin, dass man auch den Frauen dasselbe Wahlrecht einräumen könne wie den Männern. Nun, ich halte es umgekehrt für etwas ganz Absurdes, heutzutage, wo es gegen zehn Millionen erwerbstätiger Frauen gibt, noch den Frauen das Wahlrecht zu verweigern. Ich halte es für ganz erstaunlich, wie man heute, in einer Zeit, wo es Tausende studierender Frauen gibt, wo die Frauen auf allen Gebieten des Erwerbslebens bewiesen haben, dass sie den Männern ebenbürtig sind, noch den Frauen das Wahlrecht versagen kann. Ich möchte wissen, wie man diese Rechtlosigkeit der Frauen überhaupt begründen will.”

In der Kommissionsberatung über den Entwurf der Regierung verteidigte Genosse Ströbel das Frauenwahlrecht ebenfalls. Er erklärte: „An unserer prinzipiellen Forderung der Ausdehnung des Wahlrechts auf 20-jährige Personen und die Frauen halten wir selbstverständlich fest. Wir kennen keinen vernünftigen Grund, der die Frau vom gleichen Wahlrecht ausschliessen könnte.”

Die Auffassung der Sozialdemokratie ist weder im Plenum noch in der Kommission von irgend einem bürgerlichen Abgeordneten unterstützt worden. Es blieb der Partei des kämpfenden Proletariats allein vorbehalten, für das Frauenwahlrecht eine Lanze zu brechen.

(„Die Gleichheit”.)

### United States.

In a previous number of „Jus Suffragii” I explained that the method by which women in the United States could get the suffrage, was for the Legislature of each State to submit the question to the voters, and if a majority voted in favor then the constitution was changed so that all citizens over 21 years of age became electors. After four States had enfranchised their women between the years 1893 and 1896, the Legislatures of the others became frightened and would not submit the question lest it should be carried in favor. Only one State Legislature has let it go to the voters in the last twelve years and the women have felt quite discouraged. Of late, however, several States have adopted a new law called the „initiative and referendum”, by which, if a certain percentage of voters petition the Legislature to submit a question to them for decision, it is obliged to do so. This gives the women much hope, for they are sure of getting a petition large enough. Already they have done this in two States—Oregon, up in the northwest bordering on the Pacific Ocean, and Oklahoma, near the centre of the country and the last one admitted into the Union—and their voters will say in November whether women shall have the suffrage.

Meanwhile the women in two other States have persuaded their Legislatures to send the question to the voters—Washington, which is directly north of Oregon, and South Dakota, north of Oklahoma—

and they also will pass upon it at the general election November 8. So we have now two „storm centers” in the United States and four great campaigns within the next eight months, requiring a vast deal of money and work. The opponents, who are the three strongest powers in this country—the „trusts”, the liquor interests and the political „machines”—will probably put up a million dollars to prevent women from getting the power of the suffrage. The only hope of the women lies in the fact that the better class of men are beginning to feel that women have fully demonstrated their right to the ballot, and that the many evils which have fastened themselves on public life can never be eradicated until women have a vote. These men are not in the majority, however, and women have the large task before them of converting the doubters and the unbelievers. If just one of these States could be carried in the affirmative, it would do more actually to advance the cause of woman suffrage than all the conventions, speeches and writings of the past ten years.

In popular interest in this question New York continues to lead, and as it is by far the most influential State, its big newspapers and press associations reaching every corner of the country, the effect of the situation here is apparent in many directions. The large, handsome headquarters attract throngs of people, residents and visitors in the city, and an immense amount of business is transacted here—that of the National Association and of the State of New York. The latter has just opened branch headquarters in Albany, the capital of the State, and either the president or vice-president will have charge of them as long as the Legislature is in session. They are trying to persuade it to submit to the voters the question of giving the suffrage to women, which never has been done in this State. It will be a miracle if it is done now, but miraculous things sometimes happen.

The suffrage movement in the great State of Pennsylvania has also taken on new life under the able presidency of Mrs. Rachel Foster Avery. She is speaking and organizing throughout the State with gratifying success.

The Philadelphia Suffrage Society has now over 800 members under the presidency of Miss Jane Campbell, who has the distinction of being the only Catholic woman president of a suffrage club in the United States. Another large society has recently been formed in Philadelphia through the assistance of Miss M. Carey Thomas, president of Bryn Mawr College. It is composed principally of women of wealth and social position who have never before identified themselves with the suffrage movement. The president is Mrs. Cornelius Stevenson, the distinguished archaeologist, a member of the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania.

This letter is so long that I must defer until next month an account of the wonderful awakening on the suffrage question in the two Southern States of Maryland and Virginia.

IDA HUSTED HARPER,  
Chairman National Woman  
Suffrage Press Committee.  
New York, Febr. 1910.



## Sweden.

This month the municipal elections to the „Landstings” are to take place all over the country. As this is the first time that the new municipal laws will be put into practice, more stress than usual has been laid upon the preparations for these elections. The chief changes that the new laws have brought are that women have become eligible for Town- and County-Councillors, that the franchise has been extended and that the small taxpayers, and thus the women, have got a greater chance than before to influence the elections. The mode of election is also another, the elections will now be carried out by the proportional method. The chief function of the „Landsting” is to elect members of the First Chamber. The women will thus have a chance of contributing to reform the First Chamber, in spite of not being eligible for the „Landsting” themselves. The N. W. S. A. has distributed a number of propaganda leaflets with a special reference to the elections for the „Landsting”, among others extracts from the minutes of the last two suffrage debates in the First Chamber and forms for interpellating the candidates. The Executive Committee has published a proclamation to the women all over the country who possess the municipal vote, urging them to give their votes only to such candidates who are willing to include the immediate solution of the Women's Suffrage question as part of their programme at the elections for the First Chamber.

There is much excitement as to the Stockholm City-council elections the first of which will come off on March the 9th. We hope to get several women elected, as all parties, the Conservatives as well as the Liberals and the Socialdemocrats have nominated women candidates. Two of the Liberal candidates, Mrs. Broomé and Miss Hesselgren, are particularly well known as prominent social workers. Immediately before the elections, the Stockholm W. S. A. will arrange a large meeting where the women candidates from various parties will speak.

The society ladies, who have not so far taken much interest in social and political questions, are now beginning to wake up. In order to get some information about how things will stand at the elections, they arranged a large meeting with speeches by a conservative M. P. and a well known lady member of the same party, who gave an account of the present state of affairs and of the duties of the conservative women at the present moment. The invitations to the meeting were signed by ladies belonging to some of our eldest noble families.

On the 18th of February the N. W. S. A. and the Women's Peace Association gave a banquet to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Mrs. Ann Margret Holmgren, one of our most prominent and ardent pioneers, as all the readers of „Jus Suffragii” will know. A very great number of people were present, among others several M. Ps and many representatives from the local branches of the N. W. S. A. Miss Anna Kleman spoke on behalf of the Stockholm W. S. A. and presented Mrs. Holmgren with a bouquet and an address from its former and present Committee members. Dr. Lydia Wahlström spoke on behalf of the N. W. S. A. Other speakers were Miss Anna Whitlock, Mrs. Emilia Broomé, Baron Bonde, M. P. and several others. Mrs. Ellen Hagen presented Mrs. Holmgren with a golden chain made up of 48 International Suffrage Badges, one from each of the local branches which have been founded

by Mrs. Holmgren, during her lecturing tours in all parts of the country, and each bearing the name of the association that it represented. Miss Whitlock presented Mrs. Holmgren with a jubilee publication which had been published by the N. W. S. A. to celebrate the occasion. This fine volume, which was bound in white and gold—the International colours—contained contributions by several distinguished women from all the northern countries. Sweden was represented by Selma Lagerlöf, Ellen Key and others, Norway by Gina Krog, Finland by Annie Furuhjelm, Denmark by Johanne Münter. More than 200 telegrams arrived. Mrs. Holmgren expressed her thanks in a finely worded speech which was received amidst thunders of applause. The remembrance of this beautiful banquet will surely incite all the women present to renewed efforts for our great cause. Stockholm, March 1910. SIGNE BERGMAN.

## The Netherlands.

Our present Clerical Government, like its Liberal predecessor, contemplates a revision of the Constitution and is going to appoint an Advisory State Commission. The President and the Vice-Pres. of the Dutch Woman Suffrage Association had an audience with the Premier to urge the just demand that in this Commission one or more women should have a seat and thereby a chance of defending the women's point of view. Mr. Heemskerck, the Prime Minister, felt obliged to observe that in such a commission much special knowledge was required which he feared women could not possess. Of course we reminded him that in the Netherlands some women had indeed proved that they had this knowledge; yet we are not so sanguine as to expect the Minister to comply with our just request.

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The International Committee of the W. S. A. decided not to comply with the request of the Hungarian W.S.A. concerning Finland, and adopted the following resolution:—

—“We are of opinion that any interference on our side in this affair would involve more danger than profit for the Finnish women, and that it is wrong policy for the suffrage movement to interfere with international political affairs in other countries which are outside the sphere of woman suffrage.”

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The body of electors of the Dutch Reformed Church in the parish of Deventer resolved on a motion of Churchwardens and Leading Members, to extend the right to vote to women and make them eligible for church bodies.

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During the winter the W. S. A. carried on an active propaganda all over the country and formed new local sections in quite a number of places. In this work it was actively aided by the presence of Miss Margery Corbett from London, Fr. Rosika Schwimmer from Budapest, Frau Stritt from Dresden and Fröken Gill from Norway, who, one after the other, lectured in many public meetings and gained a large number of new members.

The Local Sections are now preparing to make 15 June a general woman suffrage day. On that date in 1908 the International W. S. Convention

was opened in Amsterdam, and the W. S. A. decided to make it a national day of propaganda. Dr. ALETTA H. JACOBS. Amsterdam, March 1910.

The tournée for the Dutch Bond of Woman Suffrage which Dr. Schirmacher made through Holland in February was a brilliant success; everywhere large sympathetic audiences, more than a hundred new members gained, made display of enthusiasm for speaker and for cause. We have enlisted several members of Parliament and also our ex-premier Mr. de Beaufort. The Bond is gaining steadily in members and influence. Our annual gathering we propose to hold in Almelo on May 8th, while on the 7th a festive reception and propaganda meeting will be held.

M. VAN EEGHEN—BOISSEvain,  
President of the Dutch Bond of W. S.  
Naarden, March 4th, 1910.

## Russia.

As I mentioned in my last report, the women in Russia seem to be coming out of the state of lethargy which followed after the period of excited activity in 1905—1906.

The members of the newly organized „Russian League for Women's rights” in Moscow are full of enthusiasm and hope. The different sections of the League are in a state of organization. It is especially the section of educational and economical questions which attracts the majority of women. The progressive press in Moscow is very sympathetic to the League, as well as to the new review which has been lately started here „The Women's Business”. There is only one question with regard to the women's movement, on which the majority of the liberal press and society are most conservative and hostile—it is the question of the suffragettes and their militant methods in Great Britain. Owing to the attitude, adopted by the English press towards the suffragettes, the whole history of their wonderful campaign during the last four years has been presented in quite a false light. And their last war-cry during the fight between the Liberals and Unionists—“Keep the Liberal out!”—has been used by their enemies as a proof of the suffragettes' „selfishness”, their lack of patriotism, etc.

Why is it that even most liberal men expect women to put off all their claims till the moment comes (which will hardly ever come) when the claims, presented by men, are all satisfied? And why is it that so few even clever people cannot understand that the woman's question is most closely bound up with the welfare of humanity as a whole? Until now the women are considered as creatures quite apart from men. While for men it would be considered cowardice to submit to tyranny, while the heroes of bloody revolutions are universally admired and glorified, women are severely reproved for every pane of glass broken as a protest against the unlawful and most dishonourable proceedings of the British „Liberal” government towards the brave defenders of women's rights... I have done my best to throw the light of truth on the suffragettes' campaign in England. But I am afraid all I could do was to check many calumnies, which some of our correspondents were only too ready to pick out from certain organs of the English press... Apart from this question of the English Suffragettes, our defenders of women's rights in Russia are going the right

way. The women's question here has always had a democratic tendency in our country. The educated workmen and even peasants,—on their side—are our most true and sincere allies...

I have lately received a most interesting letter from a factory workman in South East Russia, expressing his deep sympathy with the question of women's rights. „The equality of sexes, which you advocate”, writes this unknown correspondent,—“will be the means of establishing fraternity, peace, love, universal solidarity and equality of nations. Therefore these ideas (equality of sexes) must be carefully sown and disseminated amongst the uneducated masses... God help you brave defenders of women's rights”...

I am sorry space does not allow me to give in full the „profession de foi” of this representative of the educated workmen in Russia. Moscow, March 1910. ZÉNÉIDE MIROVITCH.

## Denmark.

From Jan. 1st 1910 the vestry boards, established in 1903, have been abolished. In this way the Danish women—but I make haste to say also the Danish men—have lost their votes in church matters. Our church is a State Church—Lutheran—to which nearly the whole population belongs. Until 1903 our church was entirely governed by the State through the Minister of Ecclesiastical Affairs. The above-mentioned Parish Councils granted the church members a rather great influence on church matters especially on the appointment of clergymen. The aim of these Parish Councils was also to form the basis for the election of a church committee which could make propositions for the arrangement of church affairs.

Women as well as men used in 1903 their vote to these vestry boards to a very great extension. Women as well as men were members of these Parish Councils and one woman was elected as member of the Church Committee.

The Parish Councils were only intended to exist for six years. Before that time a Church Government should have been formed. But—till now it has not been done. The church and the women must always wait and wait with patience. There are always so many other things of much greater importance to be taken care of than they. Well, after the lapse of these six years the situation concerning the arrangement of church affairs was quite unchanged. What was to be done here? In the „Things” the continuation of the Parish Councils for 3 or 6 years more was vividly discussed. It seemed impossible that they would be entirely abolished, but—yet it happened. In this moment neither men nor women have any legal influence on their church. But the present minister has given the church members, men and women, permission to express their wishes, when a new clergyman has to be appointed for their parish, and we hope, nay we are persuaded, that when sooner or later our church affairs are settled, there will be made no difference between men and women.

During the existence of the Parish Councils—the first case in which women got the right to vote and to be elected on exactly the same terms as men—in these six years the women have stood their test to the satisfaction of all.

JOHANNA BLAUENFELDT.  
Körop near Horsens, Febr. 1910.

The „Landsfo:bund for Kvinders Valgret” has been working steadily forming new branches and



lecturing in old ones all through the winter-campaign. In spite of the weather, which has been miserable with snow and storms, we have held quite a large number of meetings throughout the country, kindly assisted by so eloquent and able speakers as Miss Frederikke Mörck from Norway, Mrs. Wicksell from Sweden and Miss Dr. Maikki Friberg from Finland. The papers print our articles and the Presidents of political and social organizations send for us to come and make the members acquainted with the question of Woman Suffrage. All in all, the agitation works well. Politically nothing of importance has happened. Ringsted, March 1910. CLINNY DREYER.

**Kvindevalgretsklubben** (The Women Suffrage Club) has had some interesting meetings this winter. In November Fröken Frederikke Mörck gave us a speech concerning her most valuable experiences as member of the Norwegian Jury. As Norway is the only country which has given such a position to women, it was of great interest to hear the peculiar impression made by women acting as judges. The audience listened with deep sympathy to the speaker.

In the month of February the club had the pleasure to hear a most interesting speech about the actual conditions of Finland — given by Dr. Maikki Friberg. We know her oratorical power, and how much she always impresses her audience. She made some parallels between Finland now and Denmark some 40 years ago, which served to raise a wave of sympathy for that country so sorely tried. Of course Dr. Friberg was most enthusiastically applauded.

In the middle of March we have been promised a speech by Fru Bugge—Wicksell regarding the new law for taxation in Sweden, which gives an unprecedented extension to married women in the municipal suffrage law recently passed.

We hope to get an exact idea of how much the Scandinavian women like to compare notes and to hail progress in the neighbouring country as if it were given to themselves. The joint work of Scandinavian women is developing the feeling of unity.

JOHANNA MÜNTER,  
President of „The Women Suffrage Club.”  
Copenhagen, March 3rd.

### Italy.

On March 5 the Chamber of Deputies granted women in trade (*donne commercianti*) the right to vote.

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On Febr. 20 Mr. Gallini M. P. presented to the Chamber a bill, which provides: 1. that every woman of over 25 years old and in possession of the other qualifications required by the municipal and provincial law shall be entered on the voting register of the municipality; 2. that women may exercise all liberal professions and be eligible to all public charges, in conformity with existing law; 3. that the articles 134 and 137 of the Civil Code be struck out, and marital power thus abolished. Mr. Gallini showed how reasons of justice no less than of expediency make it desirable to institute equality of rights among men and women. He trusted that Mr. Sonnino, who has proved to have an open mind for modern ideas, would not refuse this reform the Government's support.

Mr. Sonnino, the Premier, recognized that lately the intellectual, economic and social condition of women had undergone a great change, which, he admitted, had not as yet been followed by a corresponding change in legislation. He therefore recommended that the bill be taken into consideration, which was unanimously conceded by the Chamber. (The *Giornale d'Italia* contrasts Mr. Sonnino's attitude with that of his British colleague.) Great applause, especially from the gallery which was crowded with ladies, saluted both Mr. Gallini's and Mr. Sonnino's speeches.

(Tribuna, Febr. 20.)

### Servia.

For the whole of the past month the Servian Woman Suffrage Society has been busy in preparing reports on what has been done for women's rights in foreign countries and in Servia. On the 30th of January 1910 was held the first meeting at which assisted all Servian societies from the interior of Servia. The meeting was a great success. It drew a large audience of those who are for women's rights and those who are against. Among the speakers were the president, Mrs. Subbotitch, who explained in her speech the reason why women should be placed on an equal footing with men. She made real converts to the cause by her warm, sympathetic and gracious appeal which was irresistible, and urged the women not to lose courage but to work with increased energy for their enfranchisement. The vice-president Mrs. Voulovitch gave an account of the present political situation in Servia, and urged that we should unite our forces in order to stand up for national rights. Further on were discussed several questions of civil law, clauses of the code which are degrading to women; and finally it was decided: 1) to secure to women their rightful position in society, 2) to work for abolition of the husband's guardianship over his wife and for a married women's property act, etc. From the report of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance was made a short résumé which was read at the meeting in order to explain to the Servian ladies what is done abroad for women's rights. This was heard with great interest and it awakened enthusiasm in the meeting and much discussion afterwards. To close my short report, I would like to mention that there are many persons who take an interest in our movement and are on the sympathetic side, and think our success is assured.

ELLEN S. LOSANITCH.  
Belgrade, March 1st 1910. Secr. Serv. W. S. A.

### Austrian Empire.

KRAIN.

The Diet of the crown-domain of Krain adopted a new electoral law for the capital Laibach, which grants women the right to vote. They are entitled to cast their ballot personally, like the men, and not by proxy. As a curiosity we mention that a special time of the day is allotted them for the exercise of their right to cast a ballot. Probably this provision is intended to protect them from possible assaults of male voters.

HENRIETTE HERZFELDER.  
Vienna, February 1910.