

JUS SUFFRAGII,

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INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

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DECEMBER 15, 1908.

Man and Woman, working together, saw that their common labour had the best results, that one could achieve nothing without the other, that they needed each other and could only rise on condition of mutual help and support.

W. VAN ITALLIE-VAN EMBDEN.



From the moment that equality becomes established between men and women, it ceases to be a whit more the interest of women to make themselves attractive and desirable to men than for men to produce the same impression upon women.

EDWARD BELLAMY.

PRICE 2 DUTCH FLORINS PER YEAR.

The women of Victoria have gained full suffrage. Hurrah!

Announcements.

The Report of the Amsterdam Congress may be purchased of Miss Kramers, 92 Kruiskade, Rotterdam for 75 cent post paid. In getting money orders ask for the equivalent of f 0.75. It is about 1.25 Mk. in German money; 1 sh. 3 d. in English money; 0.30 \$ in American money; 1½ fr. in French money.

The Report contains the reports of all the auxiliaries and in addition those of Austria and Bohemia; the proceedings; the program; the resolutions; lists of officers and committees; a history of the Alliance; an account of the social features of the congress; the address of welcome by Dr. Jacobs; the President's address etc. This pamphlet is one of our best means of propaganda showing the actual state of the suffrage-problem, therefore it should be in the hands of every member of every Parliament. Those who wish it mailed to any M.P. in their name will please give his address on the post-order.

At present there are still more than 200 copies available.

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Leaflet No. 1, *Woman Suffrage in New Zealand*, and Leaflet No. 2, *Woman Suffrage in Australia*, are sold off.

All American visitors to England during the past summer have returned home thoroughly aroused in behalf of woman suffrage. Excited by curiosity, they attended a suffrage meeting in London; one meeting whetted their appetites for another and when the day arrived for the home coming, their hearts and minds were filled with enthusiastic zeal for this cause. Some of them had never heard that there was a woman suffrage movement in this country and have exhibited most amusing ignorance of the American suffrage movement. They are ready, however, to take their places in it now and to do their part in the great

work. The inspiration which the English situation has given to American tourists, has doubtless stirred the visitors of all other nations. Any suffragist who is able to give herself the luxury of a trip to England should not fail to be present at our International meeting to be held in London the last week in April. It will be a memorable occasion and I believe all delegates and visitors there will feel that they have been in close touch with the fountains of history itself. The comradeship which is growing dearer among us as we become better acquainted and as we realize more deeply the true significance of our International movement, is in itself an attraction sufficient to bring the faithful ones to this London meeting; our program will present interesting features and we have much practical business to do in the interest of our Alliance. Yet greater than any of these inducements is the English Suffrage Campaign which is destined to pass into history as one of the most remarkable epoch making events in the world. To hear and see the men and women who are guiding that campaign, to hear them speak, and to see the effect upon the Press and public, is a privilege which none of us can well afford to miss. A visit to England under these circumstances may be regarded as a suffrage investment which will make us each and all more valuable to the cause in our respective countries, than we have ever been before. Let me urge all readers of "Jus Suffragii" to begin "saving the pence" and to make their plans to go to London in April. English women have shown the public that they want to vote—let us show to England and to the world that the women of all the civilized world are united in a common cause. Let us show that we stand for a "strike of a sex"; a universal demand for the establishment of a simple act of justice. Numbers will help in London, will you not be present and count one?

CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT.

New-York, Nov. 1908.

Dear Correspondents and Readers!

There is no news on „Lecturers” nor on our „Press-Exchange”, nor even on the desired „International Hymn”; so I cannot speak of those common interests of all readers now. And the French supplement—of which I can give one more as it is, and several if we get more readers—may well be postponed until there is more news. So I shall be short, and wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year, which I hope you will begin with the good intention of sending interesting and exact reports from your different countries, — before the sixth of each month please! Believe me yours sincerely,

MARTINA G. KRAMERS, Editor.
Rotterdam, Dec. 9, 1908.

Great Britain.

After the series of meetings arranged by the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies last month, the challenge of the Prime Minister to us, to show that we have the country behind us in our demand for the Franchise, was taken up by the professional women, who, on Nov. 7th, held a Mass Meeting in the Queen's Hall. Dr. Garrett Anderson, recently elected the first woman Mayor in Great Britain, took the chair. Distinguished representatives of all the professions were present to give their testimony to the need women have of the vote.

Miss Chrystal Macmillan M. A. B. Sc. and Miss Simson pleaded before the House of Lords in the appeal by lady graduates of St. Andrew's University against a decision of the Court of Session in Scotland, declaring that women graduates and members of the General Council of the University were not entitled to vote at the election of its Parliamentary representative. Women are not allowed to graduate without paying a fee in order to have their names enrolled on the register of the General Council, which is the Statutory register of Parliamentary voters in a university constituency in Scotland.

In consequence of the retirement of the sitting member, a by-election took place in the Chelmsford or Mid-Essex division. As neither of the candidates mentioned woman's suffrage in his election address the National Union supported neither, but our organisers devoted themselves to the education of the voters with the result that, on polling day, nearly 2000 men-electors signed a petition to Parliament in favour of the extension of the franchise to women.

For the first time in its history, the University Debating Society, the Union, at Oxford has been addressed by a woman. Mrs. Fawcett was invited to address the House on Woman's Suffrage, and did so with conspicuous success, impressing all who heard her. The voting was to those who know Oxford highly satisfactory, as the motion in favour of woman's Suffrage was only lost by 31 votes, 689 voting.

The Women's Liberal Federation held a mass meeting in London's largest hall, the Albert Hall, on Dec. 5th in favour of Woman's Suffrage. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Lloyd George, known as a friend to the cause, addressed the

meeting. His speech should mark an important epoch in the history of the Suffrage movement in Great Britain, as he declared that, speaking on behalf of the Government and of the Prime Minister, he could assure his audience that the Government would include women in the promised Electoral Reform Bill. The news is too recent for any comment to be possible, but at the very least such a declaration is in the highest degree encouraging.

MARGERY I CORBETT,
Secretary N.U.W.S.S.
London, Dec. 7, 1908.

The fact that Mrs. and Miss Pankhurst—the founders and leaders of the Women's Social and Political Union—are in prison, has by no means slackened the pace at which the work is carried on. So far from such being the case, the ardour and enthusiasm of the women has increased a hundredfold. Fresh members are joining every day, funds are flowing in as never before, and the work is being extended in every direction.

Realizing that wherever the Pankhursts are, there is the centre and heart of the Movement—the members of the Women's Social and Political Union, followed by some thousands of the general public, walked in procession to Holloway Gaol on three successive Saturdays, and with colours flying and bands playing, marched round the prison cheering their leaders and singing the Women's Marsellaise. All along the route from the offices of the Union to the prison itself, the processionists were enthusiastically cheered by the crowds who gathered as the strains of the band heralded their approach, and as they passed by, the onlookers joined in and marched with the women. Three times they did this—three times Holloway Prison was encircled by vast crowds cheering the plucky women inside, and cheering the Cause for the sake of which they were suffering. On each occasion the procession was headed by a brakeload of women in prison-dress. The women in their square white caps, their coarse green dresses and blue checked aprons—plentifully bestrewn with the broad arrow—were a capital object lesson for the people of London, and the crowds which followed the procession to Holloway grew in magnitude each week.

The fourth week there was a by-election in Chelmsford (a constituency near London) and it was decided to go there in procession instead of to the prison. An active campaign under the leadership of General Drummond had been carried on in the constituency for the last ten days, and Saturday's demonstration was intended to be the climax of the work.

Several motor-omnibuses were accordingly hired, and the women in their prison-dress, together with other members of the Union, went through the towns and villages in the constituency urging the electors to „keep the Liberal out”. As the gaily decorated cars passed through the country lanes, men and women came out of the cottages and cheered, and whenever the little procession halted in a village, it was immediately surrounded by a throng anxious to hear the women. Suffragette literature was eagerly bought and the men answered the women's parting injunction—“Keep the Liberal out” with a hearty „Aye—that we will”. Wherever they went it was the same story—crowds gathered like magic to listen and to cheer. When, on the following Wednesday, the poll was declared, it as found that the electors

had, indeed remembered the women, and had sent the Liberal to the bottom of the poll by some 2500 votes.

E. PETHICK LAWRENCE.
London, November 1908.

From the Women's Freedom League the Grille prisoners received a hearty and enthusiastic welcome when they emerged from the grey gates of Holloway on 28 November. The sympathy of the ordinary cockney with the militant Suffrage agitation was demonstrated clearly and unmistakably every step of the way from Covent Garden to the Strand. Cheers were raised and greetings were shouted from men in the streets, the shops, the lorries, and from the tops of piles of cabbages. Mrs. Despard was recognized and greeted, and her hand shaken again and again, accompanied by such remarks as „Keep it up!” „Ope you 'll get it!” „Good luck to you!” One man inquired, „Who's the one who's done the month?” and Miss Matters being pointed out to him, he said, „You're a plucky one. Giv' us your paw.”

It was a pleasant experience, and reminded one that the support of such men and women—who toil hard and long with no ease or leisure and then earn little more than a base living—will more than be a match for the opposition of the aristocratic members of the Anti-Suffrage Society.

We have had a most successful campaign in Mid-Essex. The people are delighted with the Suffragettes, and wonder how they ever came to be described as „hooligans.” The men so thoroughly believe in our cause that they are anxious to make Mr. Asquith understand that their votes are for Women Suffrage.

(From: Women's Franchise).

Belgium.

On Nov. 12 at a combined meeting of two women's associations in Brussels they resolved to unite into the Union Féminist pour le Suffrage (Local Wom. Suffr. Ass.). Officers were elected and methods of propaganda discussed.

A course of lectures on Women's Work, given at Mons by Mrs. Gilain L.L.D., terminated in a debate, in which the speaker was much applauded for her defence of women's rights, and the President, a Socialist, declared that he for one would no more oppose woman suffrage, as soon as he got a petition signed by a considerable number of women claiming it.

Russia.

Mrs Gontscharoff sends the following paragraph from a Russian paper:

The first Russian Women's Congress will be opened in St Petersburg at the Town Hall on the 10/24 of December next. On that evening the reports of the President, Mrs Schabanoff M.D. of the vice-president, Mrs Philosophoff, of Miss Mirovitch, Mrs Schapiro and others will be read.

The central bureau of the trades unions has resolved to take an active part in this women's congress and proposed to all trades unions possessing women members to prepare for participation in it. Adherence to it was declared by the textile, printing and pastry-makers' unions. The tobacco and tailors' unions did not form as yet any decision, being too scant in number. In the

textile manufacture there have been already many meetings of women workers, who settled the principles that will be expounded by their delegates at the congress. They resolved to claim political and civil women suffrage, equality of salary for men and women for the same work, abolition of the guardianship of the husband; abolition of the passport system; organisation of day-homes for children of working women; prohibition of night and extra work; the 8 hours' day etc. As to life-insurance, they wish to add a new paragraph concerning the insurance of working women during pregnancy and the first weeks of maternity. They have prepared some reports dealing with the economical value and significance of women's work in family and home, which is so often much more important than men's; also in factory work and in many other branches.

(„Russkie Vedomosti” N. 265)

The women's movement in Russia is struggling at present for our burning question, which can not for a moment be put aside: the question of women's higher education. Thanks to our reactionary Board of Education with Minister Schwarz at the head of it, a most extra-ordinary fact is taking place in our country: a desperate struggle is going on between our young generation, thirsting for knowledge and the officials of the Board of Education, who try either to keep back the spreading of good education or to put the whole educational system into bureaucratic fetters.

The women were the first to suffer from the Government's reactionary measures. Already as early as in May 1908 the Minister of Education Mr. Schwarz, declared himself against the admission of women to universities. Later on he issued a special circular, which not only forbade women to study in universities, but threw out of them those students, who had already been admitted during these last two years.

Thus through the action of a narrow-minded and foolish statesman many thousands of women are now deprived of the benefit of higher education. The Russian Union for Women's Rights has warmly taken up the cause of these victims of a reactionary Government. With the help of our review, the „Women's Union”, an inquest has been organised on the question of women's higher education. A circular containing four questions has been forwarded to all the well-known university-professors, namely: 1. Are women students sufficiently prepared for the university studies? 2. Have they shown a sufficient amount of assiduity in their studies? 3. Have the results of their examinations been satisfactory? 4. Is the admission of women to universities desirable and lawful? Very few professors gave a negative answer to the first and fourth questions; while to the second and third *all*, with one single exception answered in the affirmative. Thus, many expressed their wonder and admiration of the zeal and assiduity of women-students. Their examinations and practical work have been more than satisfactory. Several of their scientific essays were considered worth being printed in scientific reviews. The answers of women-students were generally very satisfactory, often much better than those of men-students. Thus a professor of law states that some men-students, on hearing the answers at examinations of women-students, realized their own inferiority, and abstained from going through the examinations. On the whole, the professors consider, that the presence of women in uni-

versities introduces a spirit of emulation most beneficial to men-students. Such is the opinion of authorities on the question of women-students. Many professors have advocated their cause before the Board of Education. But until now, Mr. Schwarz is deaf to all their arguments, as well as to the public opinion of the country: he insists on women being shut out from the universities, and considers that separate higher courses for women are all they need. But these cannot provide them with all the knowledge they want; besides, the higher courses are so few in number that more than half the candidates for them are refused admission.

No one can tell what will come out of this conflict between the progressive elements in Russia and the reactionary bureaucracy; any prognostic in our country is very hazardous. . . . Lately, the newspapers have spread the welcome rumour that Mr. Schwarz is going to resign. But that is not certain at all. Besides another specimen of the genus Schwarz might easily take his place, all retrograde elements and enemies of education being welcome to the Cabinet of Saint Petersburg.

The question of women-students and their admission to universities is not the only object to which the Russian Union for Women's Rights devotes its time and care. A circle of the R. U. in St. Petersburg is most active in preparing for the Russian Women's Congress, which is going to assemble in that capital on the 23rd of December. We earnestly hope that those of our foreign sisters who can spare a week's time will come to our country and report in that meeting so important for women of all classes in Russia.

Moscow, Nov. 1908. ZÉNÉIDE MIROVITCH.

Le club de St Pétersbourg du parti progressif des femmes fait annonce d'un concours littéraire pour la composition d'une brochure sur le thème: "Le suffrage des femmes et son application en Russie". Le manuscrit destiné au concours doit être envoyé le 1er février 1909 au plus tard à la rédaction du journal Jensky Westnik St Pétersbourg Schpalernaya 42. Le prix sera décerné le 1er Avril 1909 au plus tard.

En outre le Club a envoyé aux membres de la Douma le feuillet d'enquête suivant:

1. Trouvez-vous désirable et nécessaire qu'en Russie les femmes reçoivent actuellement et sans délai le droit de suffrage égal à celui des hommes?

2. Si votre réponse est affirmative, que vous proposez-vous d'entreprendre dans la Douma d'État pour la réalisation de l'égalité politique des femmes?

2. Si votre réponse est négative, nous vous prions de nous l'envoyer en y ajoutant le motif de votre opinion défavorable au suffrage des femmes.

M. POKROWSKAYA.

St Pétersbourg, novembre 1908.

Switzerland.

The Women's League of Zurich will hold this winter a series of four public meetings. At the last one, on Febr. 26, Mrs. A. Hoffmann from Geneva will give a conference on Woman Suffrage.

At the meeting of the National Council of Swiss Women, which followed the convention of the I. C. W. at Geneva, the Suffrage Committee of

the N. C. reported that in the course of this year they had instituted an inquiry on the political rights enjoyed by women in the different cantons. The result of this inquiry was a sad one: the women of Switzerland possess no political rights whatever. In this respect all action has to be begun. For next year the Committee has planned an investigation on the women's attitude towards the suffrage-problem. A list of questions to ascertain this had been drafted and was approved by the Council.

(from "Frauenbestrebungen").

Le Grand Conseil du Canton de Neuchâtel dans sa dernière session, en discutant la nouvelle loi sur l'instruction primaire, a voté par 46 voix contre 39 que les femmes pourront être admises à siéger dans les commissions scolaires, après une discussion très chaude. Proposée par le Gouvernement, l'admission des femmes dans les commissions scolaires avait été repoussée par la Commission du Grand Conseil chargée d'étudier la révision de la loi sur l'enseignement primaire. La proposition du Gouvernement a été reprise par quelques députés socialistes et appuyée par le Chef du Département de l'Instruction publique.

Les sociétés féministes n'ont pas pétitionné auprès du Gouvernement, mais leur influence a été, pour quelque chose dans le vote, considéré comme une victoire féministe. Il faudra maintenant veiller à ce que la loi soit appliquée, c'est à cela que les Sociétés de Chaux de Fonds et de Neuchâtel pourront travailler.

LOUISA THIÉBAUD.

Neuchâtel, 4 déc. 1908.

Hungary.

The Parliamentary Reform Bill, for which we have been waiting these three years, has at length been introduced on Nov. 11. It brings to us women many duties but no rights.

Before I give a sketch of the new law, I must report about the previous events. As I mentioned in my former reports, the press has of late ignored us altogether, so that we could only use wiles and stratagems to smuggle items of news into publicity. We need not say that the Socialist press imitated, yea beat, the bourgeois press in this conspiracy of silence and even went the length of showing its solidarity with them by suppressing the word "women's enfranchisement" altogether. As the introduction of the new Bill approached, we had more and more difficulty to get any news into the papers. The political parties, whom we repeatedly questioned as to their attitude towards the enfranchisement of women, answered never a word, not even a refusal. Yet our movement grew and prospered, for we succeeded in interesting more and more women in the provinces. During October and November, our members, not only in Budapest but also in the provinces took an active part in all suffrage-demonstrations, whether arranged by Socialists or others. They always received from Budapest appropriate leaflets for every occasion, which they distributed in processions and in- and out-door meetings. On one evening the number of meetings in Budapest came up to 27; and everywhere our members were present distributing our leaflets. In many towns the men who took part in the processions paraded our leaflets on their hats and the women on their umbrellas; everywhere this

sort of propaganda roused considerable interest, even public emotion.

Our winter campaign began with a theoretical conference on Women Suffrage and Social Ethics, for which we had invited Mrs. Minna Cauer from Berlin. Soon after we held a crowded protest-meeting against the Electoral Reform Bill which had just then been published. We protested against plural voting and against the exclusion of women.

Then we had occasion to see that, notwithstanding the silence of the press and the party-leaders, *the people is for our cause*. When in any meeting of men we were allowed to speak and to propose a resolution in favour of votes for women, it was sure to be carried. But what catches the people's fancy does not therefore please the leaders, and we were allowed the instructive pleasure of seeing the papers report that our resolution had been voted down.

Lately, at a meeting, the Democrats parried the catastrophe of hearing a woman suffrage resolution carried, by simply refusing a young woman student to speak and abruptly closing the meeting in a very unparliamentary fashion. And there were those Democratic and Radical politicians taking flight from the room not to see the dreadful spectacle of a woman speaking in public!

Of all the effective propaganda schemes which we invented only very few could be executed, because, notwithstanding our most strenuous efforts, we did not succeed in getting the necessary money.

A great success was achieved when the Minister of the Interior received from all the cities and town of the country where we have members telegrams claiming votes for women. Thus he received within a week's course upwards of 80 such telegrams.

We are also holding a series of professional meetings for woman suffrage. At the first of these, held for ladies and gentlemen doctors, Dr. Charlotte Steinberger spoke; at the second, for teachers, professors etc. Vilma Glücklich gave an address, and further meetings are going to be held for employees, factory girls etc. For the day of the introduction of the Electoral Reform Bill into Parliament we had made special arrangements. Our plan was that we women should occupy the galleries of the House, that at least the great number of women present might show the women's interest in the affair. Then during the minister's speech ten ladies were to throw into the room leaflets in which we formulated our claim and published the declarations of the most prominent politicians of all parties on women's enfranchisement. It is a noticeable fact that most of these gave those declarations when they did not yet know that they would be called upon to exercise the power they now possess. We had to give up the plan of throwing leaflets into the House, as by an indiscretion some days before the boulevard papers published our secret designs.

Yet our ladies knew what to do: they took up their position where the carriages had to pass and at the stopping-place of the electric car, and threw the leaflets into the passing equipages. Journalists and public surrounded the group of our demonstrators. One deputy offered to take with him a packet of the leaflets and to distribute them in the House to those whom we could not approach. One lady imagined to have one of our big banners fixed on two flagstaffs set up above the deputies' entrance, where it showed all lookers-on that we claim votes for women.

At the beginning of the session the demonstrators, leaving a Guard of Honour behind, executed the program and went up to the galleries. Here they were received by a host of police and detectives and put through an ordeal of inspection. *The trimmings and leather sacks were searched, yea the bonnets lifted, from fear lest we were approaching with bombs and shell*. The invitations, intended for distribution after the session, were taken from us by violence, moreover the police ordered us to take the votes-for-women-ribbons off our jackets, menacing to refuse us admittance if we did not obey, notwithstanding our permits. But as our object was to attend the meeting in as great a number as possible, most of us complied with the order. At the side of every lady on the gallery, also of those who did not belong to our group, detectives were sitting or standing, in order to prevent an attack.

And whilst the police were only concerned about the ladies, who, however, intended no demonstration in the House, two men were throwing out leaflets; but, not dealing with votes for women, these were less dangerous than suffrage leaflets would have been. Yet, while the Minister of the Interior was advocating his bill, we occasioned a little disturbance in the proceedings, for the janitors came and handed round our telegrams sent off in the morning.

Great astonishment was the result of the invitations to the protestmeeting, which, after the close of the session, we were again free to distribute in spite of the police, a new supply of pamphlets having been procured meanwhile. These invitations were a proof that, although the Minister had kept the time of introduction of the Bill a secret nearly up to the last moment, we had well prepared our ground. Indeed we were the first in the country to protest against the abominable law.

The press gave lively and favorable accounts of our demonstration, without however quite seeming to understand its earnest political meaning.

The national meeting on 14 November, to which many members from the provinces and also three peasant women had come as representatives of the Agricultural Labourers' League, was a great success. In this meeting we unanimously protested against our exclusion. The Reform Bill, which gives for instance a double vote to the husband whose wife has brought three children into the world and is also otherwise full of enormities, will be explicitly dealt with in our next number.

We will only mention here that nearly 150 M.P.'s have announced that they are prepared to form a League of Deputies for Woman Suffrage. Among the Ministers we count Franz Kossuth (Minister of Commerce) and the Minister President Wekerle as supporters of women's enfranchisement, whilst Count Apponyi, the Minister of Education, is our most decided opponent. We suppose that the formation of the said League will have a decisive influence on public opinion in our behalf.

ROSIKA SCHWIMMER.

Amsterdam, November 1908.

The international badge, which should be worn by every woman believing in woman suffrage, is to be ordered from **Mrs. J. PEDERSEN-DAN, Nørrebrogade 183, Copenhagen, 50 bronze badges 22 sh, 6 d., postage prepaid.**

Reduction in price for orders exceeding that number.

Germany.

We glean from the "Zeitschrift für Frauenstimmrecht", organ of the N.W.S.A. the following facts:

The petition sent in September to the Bavarian Committee on Petitions by the N.W.S.A. was not officially acknowledged; yet its presentation was immediately followed by an order to Municipalities not to hold elections in bar-rooms, but in schools etc.

The Executive of the Frankfurt W.S.A. has sent to the members a circular declaring that under the present political circumstances the aim of the W.S.A., being universal adult suffrage, has little chance to be furthered, and so they think that this time abstention from canvassing would be best.

The Bavarian W.S.A., constituted on Oct. 30, after an address from Miss L. G. Heymann, has adopted the Suffragette-colours, purple, green and white.

The Bremen W.S.A. has found it an excellent propaganda to have their leaflet: "Women, what do you think of this?" reprinted in the local newspaper with the widest circulation.

At Constanz the Local W.S.A. holds a series of lectures and a public meeting on Dec. 9, where Miss L. G. Heymann will speak on Municipal Votes for Women. The Munich Local W.S.A. has arranged a course of lectures from Dr. Anita Augspurg on the Principles of Civil Rights.

From 21 to 28 Oct. Miss Heymann made a lecturing tour in different towns in Hessen, which brought a hundred new members to the Hessian Association. Giessen and Mainz constituted Local Societies.

On Dec. 7 and 8 the Prussian W.S.A. has its annual meeting in Berlin, followed by a public meeting, where Dr. Anita Augspurg will speak on: Nation, Government and Diet.

M. G. K.

On Oct. 19th in a special meeting of the Liberal League of Altona, Ottensen and environs, two women were elected as members of the Executive. A member feared lest the numerous women who had joined the League might soon form the plan of organizing a separate Liberal Women's League. But Miss Drenkhahn answered that there was no danger of that, for, in however great numbers the women joined the men's organisations, yet they had all one paramount aim which went with them before all party-politics: the enfranchisement of women.

(from: "Centralblatt des Bundes deutscher Frauenvereine".)

Die Rostocker Ortsgruppe für Frauenstimmrecht konstituierte sich auf ihrer Generalversammlung am 13. Nov., auf Antrag der Vorsitzenden, Frä. Klara Schleker-Marlow, zum „Mecklenburgischen Landesverein für Frauenstimmrecht“. In der sogleich vorgenommenen Neuwahl des Vorstandes wurde Frä. Klara Schleker als Vorsitzende einstimmig wiedergewählt. Als erste Betätigung des Meckl. Landesvereins wurde beschlossen, im Anschluss an die bisherigen Einzelmitglieder, die Gründung von Ortsgruppen vorzunehmen und für dieselben „Obfrauen“ zu wählen, die den Verkehr mit dem Vorstand zu besorgen haben.

Dem Meckl. Landesverein für Frauenstimmrecht gehören zur Zeit in sechs Städten Ortsgruppen an. In der am gleichen Tage folgenden Abendversammlung hielt Frä. Dr. Käthe Schirmacher einen

Vortrag über: „Die Frau ist so konservativ, die Frau ist so revolutionär“. Die sich daran schliessende Diskussion brachte der Rednerin einen mit begeistertem Beifall aufgenommenen glänzenden Sieg.

LUISE HAND,
Rostock, Nov. 1908 korresp. Schriftführerin.

Norway.

In Norway, apart from the discussions on the Government Bill for the enfranchisement of the remaining group of women now excluded by a small property-qualification, our news concerns more some laws and institutions that touch women's interests than "Jus Suffragii's" main question: "Votes for Women".

So for instance "Nylaende" says: The reader will remember that the law on factory-inspection was one of the points held over from the last session of the Storting (Parliament). But it was only put off until the next session, and not until after the new elections will have given women their say in the matter. Yet it would not be too great a generosity to consult the women themselves on what concerns them so much. But it may also be that there is a special interest in getting the affair settled, whilst they are still among the voteless minors. In the report of the majority of the State Commission (six members) there is some foundation for that opinion; whilst the minority (three members) hold that any separate legislation for adult women workers on account of sex should be discarded.

A big meeting of Norsk Kvindesagsforening on Nov. 20 in Kristiania passed unanimously the following resolution: "In accordance with the petition addressed by Kristiania's Schoolboard to the Municipality, this meeting declares that they hold it right and just that the Schoolboard should be allowed to appoint women as principals of board-schools under the same conditions as men. In the interest of education, women should take part in the management of the school."

The trade-union of Commercial Employees expressed a similar view in a resolution adopted at a crowded meeting on Oct. 20th, all the men and women who took part in the lively discussion being unanimous on this maxim: that an equal amount of work, whether done by man or woman, should receive the same salary.

Another proof that the standard of fixed salaries for women's work is increasing, is to be found in the provision made on November 6 by the Municipality of Kristiania by 45 against 39 votes, stipulating that women teachers in board-schools shall have an initial salary of 1100 Kr. which may be augmented to 1700 Kr., whereas it was up to now 900-1500 Kr.

The National Council of Norwegian Women recommends its Local Councils and affiliated Associations to consider the desirability of a revision of the Marriage Laws with a view to the right to dispose of joint property. There is also a strong current of opinion in the country claiming medical certificates before contracting marriage.

The N. W. S. A. is trying to establish courses of lectures on economics and politics for men and women. A Committee has been appointed for this purpose, and in Kristiania they have already succeeded in arranging these lectures as a preparation for next year's elections.

M. G. K.

As a fact it may be noticed that since the abolition of the legal prostitution in 1888, the number of those persons, who are infected with venereal diseases in Kristiania, after first having increased, has of late decreased. In the latest statistics of the Journal of the Norwegian Physicians' Union the Inspector of Public Health, Dr. Ustvedt, gives a report of the venereal diseases in Kristiania in the year 1907. According to this report, the year 1898 shows the greatest number, viz. 3692. In the year 1905 the number was 2335, in 1906 1889 persons were reported as suffering from these diseases, and in the last year—1907—1567 new patients were registered by the practising physicians and infirmaries.

The decrease continues, for all sorts of venereal diseases, inherited syphilis excepted.

FR. MÖRCK.

Kristiania, Sept. 26-'08.

As already mentioned in "Jus Suffragii" the present Norwegian Government, which belongs to the Radical party, proposed an amendment to the constitution of the country giving universal political suffrage to women on the same terms as men have it. That proposition is to be brought before the people at the elections next summer.

Some days ago the leader of the Conservative party, Mr. F. Stang, in a banquet-speech drew up the lines for the policy of that party—not mentioning women suffrage nor women's other claims at all. And yesterday "Morgenbladet", the leading Conservative newspaper, declared itself decidedly against universal political suffrage for women. That article is considered as a "Jacta alea est".

After that it is clear that adult suffrage will be a most prominent issue at the next elections.

The Conservative women, who are already enfranchised, quite agree with their party. A new proof of the truth in Mrs. Catt's words: "Our common enemy is not man, but conservatism."

WILHELM KEILHAU.

Kristiania, 3rd of December 1908.

Denmark.

The National Danish Woman Suffrage Association has to communicate to our international paper, that the Government—the same that has introduced the bill for municipal woman-suffrage—has been dissolved in the latter half of September, only continuing in office until Mr. Neergaard as Premier had formed a new cabinet, which event took place in October.

But the women of Denmark will always feel grateful to that Government, which, under the Premier S. E. Christensen has given them municipal suffrage and has moreover had the justice to give them the same rights as men in the municipal elections, making them electors and eligible.

In the new cabinet we find some of our friends from the late ministry and some of those members of Parliament, who supported the Government's Suffrage Bill, which was carried in spite of its many adversaries during the last parliamentary session. From this we may augur, that we shall have friends to advocate our cause in the years to come just as they have done in the past.

"The National Danish Women Suffrage Association" had its annual Meeting on October 12th. The order of the day was a discussion of a proposal

for a National Union introduced by a Committee. It did not meet with sympathy, and this question was postponed until after the London Congress.

Four members of the Executive Committee had to retire and new ones were elected. The votes for a President were centred on Fru Louise Nörlund, who will be remembered from the Copenhagen-Congress in 1906, when she had been President of the Association since 1899. Then she formed a committee for Woman-Suffrage, developing it afterwards into an Association. But the work for Woman-Suffrage she had in fact commenced in 1889, and she has always been one of our most vigorous pioneers for the cause.

Therefore we have good reason to congratulate ourselves on getting her as a leader at this critical moment, when we are standing at the door of Municipal Suffrage, which will be exercised for the first time in March 1909 by Danish Women. Fru Nörlund knows there is no time to lose, and on her election she immediately summoned a meeting of the Executive-Committee on October 14 to take a decision for sending a petition to the new Premier, Mr. Neergaard, requesting, that amendments might be made in the Constitution in such a way, that full suffrage could be given to women. The president, who spoke for the deputation, received a most gracious answer, though no promise, advising the women to use their new municipal rights to gain the political.

Fru Nörlund has been occupied in editing a leaflet: "The A B C of Municipal Rights". It is so cheap, that every woman can buy it.

Moreover she has proposed to send a circular to the Presidents of all our organisations to admonish them to take part and get the members to take part in all the electoral meetings before the elections in accordance with the political parties to which they choose to belong. We need certainly no bidding to be present at the elections themselves in order to put our names on the lists and do our duty to the cause.

It is interesting to observe, that the desire to be present at the elections is not limited to the women, who work for suffrage, but is perhaps felt just as much by the women of the higher classes, who are generally indifferent to this momentous question, so that we may hope, that women's voting will spread over all the political parties.

Women, whose political creed places them amongst the Anti-Suffragists, say: "We hate the idea of women having the vote! But since it is forced upon us, we are obliged to learn, what it means. For this purpose we will form an organisation to gain knowledge in municipal matters considering that our unavoidable duty".

I was present at such a meeting, where a conservative Professor gave a political survey of the events that contributed to bring to the Constitution of 1849 the democratic stamp which it has now. It was interesting to witness how these women had become open to conviction within so short a time, for—to know means to be a convert to the cause.

JOHANNA MÜNTER,
Secr. N.W.S.A. of Denmark.

Kopenhagen, October 23, 1908.

The Landsforbund for W. S., founded Nov. 24 1907 at a meeting of delegates in Copenhagen, numbered on its first anniversary 100 branches with almost 10,000 members. The Landsforbund

has recently presented a petition to the new moderate Government, applying for political suffrage for women. The Prime Minister, Mr. Neergaard, absolutely refused to endorse the request.

Though not personally and on principle opposed to the idea of political suffrage for women, he thought that the request was untimely, and advised the women to first prove their ability in using the municipal suffrage that had so recently been granted them.

Copenhagen, Dec. 1908.

CLARA TYBJERG.

Sweden.

The horizon of the Swedish women's suffrage movement is at present covered with clouds. The inevitable has come. Miss Anna Whitlock, our venerated President, has had to give in at her doctor's advice and will have to lay down the sceptre with which she has reigned over our National Association ever since its very beginning. At the General Meeting of the Stockholm W.S.A. on Monday last, when the members of the Central Board were to be elected, she announced her wish to withdraw from the Executive Committee and asked not to have her mandate renewed. It is unnecessary to say that this announcement was received with signs of deep regret by the members present, and when the whole meeting rose to endorse the words of gratitude, uttered by Dr. Lydia Wahlström, the President of the Stockholm W.S.A., it only expressed the feelings of every suffragist in Sweden. The name of Anna Whitlock is so closely connected with our N.W.S.A., that I am sure that suffragists in every country will understand, what a great loss this means to our movement.

The members of the Executive Committee for the next year will be: Dr. Lydia Wahlström, Miss Signe Bergman and Miss Axianne Thorstenson, phil. cand., with Baroness Ebba Palmstierna and Mrs. Ezaline Boheman as Supplementary members. The President will be elected at the Annual Meeting of the N.W.S.A., which will take place at Örebro on the 8th and 9th of January.

At present the various branches of our organization are busy preparing for the municipal elections, urging women to make use of their municipal votes. It is of the utmost importance that a high percentage of women's votes should be polled this year, as the question of women's municipal eligibility will be placed before the next Parliament for a final decision.

The N.W.S.A. is steadily growing in strength, and new branches are continually being formed. At this moment we count 134 local associations. The second Lappland Association has just been formed. Dr. Gulli Petrini, one of our best speakers, has just returned from a lecturing-tour to Lappland in the most northern part of Sweden, where she has visited places, which, by their absence of all sorts of communication with the rest of the world, are most in need of a "lift". Though the journey was very tiring—Dr. Petrini had to travel over 300 English miles by post-chase on rough country-roads by 20° Celsius below zero—her trip has been most interesting, and it was gratifying to hear, how our cause is gaining ground even in those remote parts. In one parish far north there is a woman who holds the place of a state-dairyist, and who seems to occupy a very honoured position among the people. One day some peasants of the parish next to the one where she lives, asked if she could not come and live in their parish instead, for they wanted to give

her their votes at the election. Evidently there are still men in this country, who believe that women are eligible for Parliament, and there are women who would fill their place in Parliament even better than many men.

* * *

On the 20th of November the 51st birthday of our Swedish author Selma Lagerlöf was celebrated throughout the country. Many of our Local Associations joined in the general celebration by arranging special festivities. The N.W.S.A. sent a special address to Selma Lagerlöf who, is a member of the Committee of the Falun W.S.A. Stockholm, December 1908. SIGNÉ BERGMAN.

Finland.

Recent statistics on the numbers of men and women who voted at the last election in the Government of Nyland show that the number of men electors was 72,025 or 45,9%, that of women electors 84,864 or 54,1%. The number of men who voted was 52,742 or 73,2%, and of women 55,499 or 65,4%. So the number of men voters was comparatively greater than that of women, which is not a surprising fact, since the men have long been accustomed to political responsibility. It is more astonishing that women have so promptly and in such numbers felt it their duty to fulfill the demand which the new law made upon them. We feel the desirability of getting soon more occasions to exercise public duties, by having complete municipal suffrage conferred on us. To be sure the women tax-payers (mostly spinsters) are already enfranchised now, yet they are not eligible to any office except Charity Boards and Local School Boards; and further married women are deprived of votes until they become widows. A new Bill with radical changes in municipal government—which was carried at the eleventh hour in the Diet, almost without discussion and rather rashly—shows other views by giving exactly the same electoral rights to women as to men. This Bill however is defective in many other respects, and is not very likely to obtain the required grandducal sanction.

As a sign of the times, and moreover a good sign, we may consider the fact that, in the Church Synod now being held, it has been proposed to grant women the elective suffrage for sundry Church-offices. Of course this only remains a proposition, but yet it is a comfort to find in so conservative a camp a progressive movement.

Helsingfors, December 2, 1908. ANNA LUNDSTRÖM.

Austria.

The meeting on Nov. 18th at Troppau, where the Silesian women protested against their exclusion from the municipal suffrage, had an enormous success. There were 800 persons, men as well as women. Some had come with the intention of disturbing the meeting by noise, but the calm persuasiveness of the speeches did not miss its effect. A resolution was carried which expressed strong disapproval of this damaging of women's interests, and an appeal was made to the Silesian Government *not* to present the Bill to the Emperor for sanction. We presented this request personally to the President; and should it get proper consideration, we will certainly leave no stone unturned to get our rights duly recognized in a new Bill. At least our claims are beginning to be admitted by the public.

Troppau, Dec. 6, 1908.

ANNA WARNICZEK.