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## IN MEMORIAM LEO MECHELIN.

In the death of Senator Leo Mechelin, Finland has lost one of her sincerest patriots; a man of great nobility of character, who was for many years her foremost statesman. For nearly forty years Senator Mechelin had been a leading figure in the political life of the country. He was the heart and soul of the whole movement for upholding the constitutional rights of Finland. It was he, first and foremost, who counselled passive resistance as the only possible and consistent policy for a small and weak country, and it was he more than anyone else who filled the hearts of his countrymen with courage during their darkest days of oppression. He himself was exiled in 1903, and on his return to his native land he was welcomed by a great public ovation. In 1905, after the great national strike and the change in Russia's attitude towards Finland, Senator Mechelin was appointed Premier, and was generally regarded as the "Uncrowned King of Finland." Throughout his whole life he was true to the convictions and the ideals of his youth. He was a strict Constitutionalist, Conservative as an upholder of law and order, but intensely Liberal in his legal and political views and in his desire to adapt legislation to the actual needs of his country. His Liberalism was sincere and consistent, and he was never afraid to embody in legislation the principles that he advocated in speech and in writing.

The women of Finland have peculiar cause to mourn his loss, for he was always a staunch defender of their rights. In 1897 he presented a Bill for granting "municipal eligibility" to women, but this Bill was not sanctioned by the Government. In 1904 he returned from exile, and the following autumn, in 1905, the national strike broke out, and an era of constitutional liberty seemed to dawn for Finland. Senator Mechelin was soon afterwards received in private audience by the Czar, and he took this opportunity of pleading the cause of Woman Suffrage, which was granted in 1906. In 1905 he was appointed Premier, which office he held until 1908, when he was forced to resign in consequence of the reactionary policy which had once more gained the upper hand in Russia.

During the later years of his life, though holding no official position, he never ceased to defend the rights of his country, both by word and by deed, and in spite of his multifarious political preoccupations his interest in Woman Suffrage was undiminished. He had expected to attend the meeting of the I.W.S.A. held in Budapest last summer, and then to give public utterance to his conviction of the necessity for women's participation in political life. In the booklet which was presented to the Congress he said:—"In these hard times, when

the political rights of Finland are endangered by the encroachments of the Russian Government, and the work of the Diet is of little avail, the strengthening of the feeling of solidarity in the country is of the greatest importance, and the political enfranchisement of women has been a valuable means to this end."

ANNIE FURUHJELM.

## CUBA.

The National Feminist Party of Cuba now numbers 10,000 members. It was founded by Amalia Mallen, the editress of the interesting Feminist paper, *Luz*. Cuban women are urging their demand for independence, and claiming more economic openings for women. Their programme, as will be seen, is very comprehensive.

*Basis of the National Feminist Party:* Civil, political, and social equality of both sexes.

1.—*Programme:* Reform of the Civil Service Law, and the allotting to women of a fixed percentage of appointments in the State, Province, and Municipality, and the opening of all teaching employments to women in the elementary schools.

2.—Free access for women to all commercial and industrial employments, with equal salaries.

3.—Free access to all teaching establishments. Schools of art for both sexes in all important towns.

4.—The admission of women to the telegraph service, to employment as bookkeepers in shops for the sale of women's and children's articles.

5.—Legislation tending to the economic emancipation of women, the suppression of alcoholism, and the protection of immigrants.

6.—Absolute civil equality.

7.—Laws for the protection of illegitimate and neglected children and the establishment of Children's Courts.

8.—Abolition of capital punishment, and pacifist propaganda.

9.—Reform of taxation on necessities.

10.—Protection of the woman who has been driven into prostitution by misfortune, and the suppression of the white slave traffic.

11.—Creation of a committee for the protection of women in judicial cases.

12.—Creation of groups for the study of government and administration.

13.—*Political equality of both sexes.* The immediate enfranchisement of women who have passed through the public elementary school, and who are of irreproachable character.

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### NOTES.

Owing to the number and length of the reports this month, the usual notes have to be omitted.

It has been suggested that readers would find news notes more useful for reference if they were arranged under the countries from which they come. We should be glad of our readers' opinions on this matter.

Next month we shall publish the questionnaire on women printers.

#### British Columbia.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE BILL.—The *Daily Chronicle* of February 28th publishes a telegram from Victoria, British Columbia, stating that a Woman Suffrage Bill was defeated in the Legislature by 23 votes to 10.

#### United States

THE SENATE WILL DISCUSS SUFFRAGE.—The *Daily Citizen* of March 3rd publishes a cablegram from Washington, that the Senate has decided by 47 votes to 13 to consider immediately a resolution in favour of a Woman Suffrage Amendment to the Constitution.

### REPORTS FROM SOCIETIES AFFILIATED TO THE ALLIANCE.

#### AUSTRIA.

##### Formation of Young People's Groups and Local Branches.

The Austrian Woman Suffrage Committee held an official general meeting for the first time on February 10th, at which Mrs. Gisela Urban and Mrs. Olga Wisar gave the treasurer's report. The elections at the close of the meeting resulted in the unanimous re-election of the former committee. In the treasurer's report on the year's work, the speaker cited the founding of Young People's Groups within the Suffrage Society as a joyful proof of the growing interest in the Suffrage movement. A number of girls, who had been brought into touch with the Suffrage Movement for the first time by the visit of our international friends to Vienna, were glad to seize the opportunity and express their desire for a greater knowledge of the Women's Movement by forming a Young People's Group. Every fortnight this enthusiastic band of young Suffragists holds meetings, at which discussions of books of solid information give rise to keen expressions of opinion. This group is assuredly educating a stock of well-trained speakers and future capable leaders.

Another development which is making known the aims and objects of the Suffrage Movement in wider circles is the recent decision of the Suffrage Committee to form branches in the various divisions of Vienna. These Suffrage Branches will hold regular meetings, and the informal and intimate character of the gatherings will certainly encourage the free expression of personal opinions more than large meetings, and will offer a good opportunity for the correction of erroneous impressions and unwarranted prejudices.

Of course, the influence of the Central Society must be retained, and with that object it is stipulated that the Central Committee must be informed of all local meetings, and that a member of the Committee must be present.

We hope that this new departure will prove to be an effective means of extended propaganda for the Suffrage Movement in Austria.

#### BOHEMIA.\*

##### Vybor pro volebni právo žen.

Bohemian women are facing numerous serious changes, which require watchfulness and unwearied toil.

\* Part of this report appeared in the February number, and in the French edition; it arrived too late to print in full.

I.—The Austrian Government has proposed a new Suffrage Bill for the Diet of Bohemia, extending franchise to all men, but excluding women—not taxpayers. Eligibility of women to Parliament is refused altogether. This means a breaking-up of the equality between men and women which has existed till now; besides, it means a loss of the active right to many women now paying a small tax, which the new tax-law (which is being passed by Parliament) will now not require them to pay.

II.—The Prague Municipality is preparing a new electoral law for Prague, which will give women the right to vote if they pay taxes amounting to at least 10 kr. Because all the women of Prague have been till now excluded from this right, questionnaires are being sent by the Union of Jurists in the municipal service to the other municipalities in Bohemia, asking for their opinion on Woman Suffrage.

III.—According to the new Law of Association this law would not come into effect until January 1st of the year following its sanction by the Emperor. (See *Jus Suffragii*, January, 1914, rep. of Austria.) This might retard the possibility of forming political associations of women for a whole year (at least). Therefore "Vybor pro volebni právo žen" has sent the Parliament a petition (through the kindness of the Bohemian M.P. Choc) asking it to pass a resolution that the law become valid on the day that it is proclaimed.

The Progressive Organisation of Czechish Women in Moravia presented a proposition to the Vybor pro volebni právo žen and political organisations that a Central W.S. Alliance of Czechish women from Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia be formed, and sent invitations to a constitution meeting in Prague, December 7th, 1913.

But it was decided at the preliminary conference, held December 6th, that it is necessary first to organise Woman's Suffrage Unions in each country, which Unions afterwards might unite into a Central W.S. Alliance of Czechish women of all three countries.

So the Czechish women from Moravia will belong to their own W.S. Union, just organised; and the Czechish women in Bohemia will form a similar Union of their own.

A Committee which shall organise the Bohemian W.S. Union was elected, which consists of members of the Bohemian Woman's Suffrage Committee (Vybor pro volebni právo žen) and delegates of political parties.

The National Union of Women Teachers for the Kingdom of Bohemia (*Zemská Ustřední Jednota Učitelek pro království České*) has sent petitions to all the municipalities demanding that they should declare in their answers that they are in favour of equal rights for women teachers as well as men (because they have the same education and responsibility as men).

"Vybor pro volebni právo žen" (W.S.C.), in co-operation with delegates from all the leading Czechish Women's Societies, forwarded a memorandum to the Municipality of Prague, in which they enumerated the educative and social work of the municipality and women's part in it, and pointed to the importance of having women's co-operation in the Prague Municipality.

On February 8th a great public meeting was held by the women of the National Socialist Party in protest against the Government's proposed Suffrage reform, and against the injustice of its probable execution. At this meeting M. P. Choc announced that the National Socialist Party, in the event of election to the Diet, would support the election of a woman candidate. By request of the managers, a member of Vybor pro volebni právo žen spoke at this meeting.

Praha, February 19th, 1914. MARIE TUMOVA.

#### FINLAND.

##### Parliamentary News.

The new Finnish Diet, elected last August, met for the first time on February 2nd.

Twenty-one women were elected members of the Diet, seven more than at the preceding elections held in 1911. Women thus constitute at present 10½ per cent. of the entire number of delegates.

Of these women delegates, 4\* belong to the Swedish, 2 to the Young Finnish, 2 to the Old Finnish, and 13 to the Social Democratic Party. One of the first proceedings after the opening ceremonies and the election of the President is the elections to the standing committees, in which the work of the legislative body is chiefly concentrated. These elections are not yet finished, but thus far women have been elected as follows to the various Committees:—

Great Central Committee (total number of members 60): 5 women members.

Fundamental Law Committee: 1 woman member and 1 alternate.

Finance Committee (Ways and Means): 1 woman member. Common Law Committee: 4 women members and 3 alternates.

Economic Law Committee: 1 woman member and 1 alternate.

Land Legislation Committee: 1 woman alternate.

Bank of Finland Committee: 1 woman member.

Committee for Education: 5 women members.

Labour Committee: 3 women members and 1 alternate.

Despatch Committee: 2 women members and 2 alternates.

Revising Committee (revises minutes, texts of bills, etc.): 2 women members and 1 alternate.

Economic and Law Committee: 1 woman member.

Immediately after the opening of the Session, an address to the Czar was drafted, with the object of pointing out the increasing lawless encroachments on Finland's constitutional autonomy. The address was, in the prescribed order, submitted to the Fundamental Law Committee, and passed in the Diet as a first and most urgent measure.

It was warmly endorsed by all Parliamentary groups except the Social Democrats, who objected solely on the ground that the address, as drafted, was not sufficiently sharp and explicit.

\* Among them Miss A. Furuholm, the second Vice-President of I.W.S.A.

#### FRANCE.

##### Bill to Give Women Municipal Vote.

The Committee for Universal Suffrage of the Chamber of Deputies has demanded a place for the first discussion of the Bill for giving women the vote for local Councils. The Chamber at its meeting on February 3rd, 1914, ordered that time should be allotted for this discussion. It is in consequence of the way in which the question has been pressed lately by the French Union for Women's Suffrage on behalf of its 80 branches and 12,000 members, and by the League of Electors for Women's Suffrage, that the French Suffrage programme has thus entered the sphere of practical politics.

Extract from the Supplementary Report presented to the Chamber, July 29th, 1913, by Mr. Ferdinand Buisson, Reporter on the Dussaussoy Bill.

However important it may be to proceed carefully, the stages of progress must not be increased unnecessarily. The Committee rejects, therefore, many proposals for limiting the municipal vote to certain small classes of women, and allowing them only the vote to Municipal Councils. As for M. Breton's proposal to limit the vote to mothers of three children, there is no more reason to do so than in the case of men to limit the vote to fathers of three children.

The Committee has, however, accepted the distinction between the Local Government vote and the Parliamentary vote.

The Committee at first thought that one paragraph would suffice, and drafted it as follows:—"All French people of both sexes over twenty-one years of age, and not legally incapacitated, are electors." But this would confer on women the Parliamentary vote as well as the local.

By the law of 1884 there is one electoral list for all purposes. The Committee has accepted the decision of the Court of Cassation, March 16th, 1885, which fixed the meaning of Article 14 thus:—"No legal or constitutional enactments have conferred on women the enjoyment of political rights. They cannot have their names on the electoral register." The silence of the law is therefore interpreted as implying the refusal of the vote. It is necessary, therefore, to include explicitly women by adding the words we propose, "French people of both sexes."

But that done, and in order that the new right shall not extend beyond the local vote, the Committee for the present adds a second article, Article 2. The amendment of the law of April 5th, 1884, contained in the preceding article does not apply to the election of Deputies, in which male electors alone may take part.

Those members of Committee who think that full political Suffrage should be granted to women immediately, reserve their right to press for the adoption of the first article only, and to propose this as an amendment in the Chamber. The Committee support the two articles.

The text is as follows:—

#### BILL.

Article 1.—Article 14 of the law of April 5th, 1884, is amended as follows:—All French people of both sexes, of twenty-one years of age, and not legally incapacitated, are electors.

Article 2.—The amendment of the law of April 5th, 1884, contained in the preceding article, does not apply to the election of Deputies, in which male electors alone may take part.

#### GREAT BRITAIN.

##### National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

Mr. Asquith continues to refuse deputations of men anxious to show to him the demand that there is among men for the enfranchisement of women. Nothing, it seems, will move him except defeat at the polls. All straightforward people have, however, been shocked and disgusted at a reply he made to a deputation from the Trade Union Congress in the second week in February, when he actually asserted that he had fulfilled all his pledges to the National Union; the fact being, of course, as reports of his own speeches show, that he has not yet fulfilled any of his pledges. He might have pleaded for indulgence on the ground that he could not fulfil them; to assert that he has fulfilled them is to assert what anyone who takes the trouble to look up his statements to the National Union and in Parliament will find to be false. Politicians, even those of the front rank, are sometimes quite childish, and this statement will deceive no one who has not already deceived himself.

The great Men's Demonstration at the Albert Hall on February 14th, organised by the National Union, was an unqualified success, and quite unique in its character. Never have so many men been collected to demonstrate for women (there were over 1,000 in those parts reserved for demonstrators, and many more scattered about the rest of the hall, which holds some 8,000), and among these were representatives from 342 men's organisations, mostly Trade Unions. Thus millions of men in organised labour spoke for Women's Suffrage at this meeting; yet the Prime Minister refused to hear a deputation from them. A resolution of indignation at this treatment was passed with great enthusiasm, and so was another demanding a Government measure. The speeches were on an uncommonly high level, over £6,000 was collected, and the efforts of "militant" men and women to prevent a Labour member of Parliament, Mr. Arthur Henderson, from making his speech failed entirely, thanks to his firmness and to the self-control of the audience. But the vast audience showed its appreciation of Mr. Henderson's pluck by leaping to its feet when he had finished, and by cheering and waving hats and handkerchiefs, a demonstration which concluded by the eminently British singing of "He's a jolly good fellow." This demonstration was a spontaneous and generous vindication, not only of Mr. Henderson, but of the Labour Party, against the peevish attacks to which they are constantly subjected. The appearance, for the first time, of Mrs. Creighton on a Suffrage platform was an event of particular interest to those who are familiar with her work on the International Council of Women. It is of the utmost importance that the world should realise that Suffragists are not monomaniacs or agitators, but that nearly all the good women who are doing the good work of social service are Suffragists.

The National Union has just issued its annual report, which records 90,500 adherents enrolled by the Union, and £45,000 raised during the last twelve months. In seven by-elections the Election Fighting Fund of the Union has been used to support the Labour candidate, and an immense amount of organisation has also been done. The Government has, through the running of Labour candidates, lost 12,576 votes. Hard work was done in Leith Burghs election, with good results; and the defeat of the Government candidate by the narrow majority of 16 should teach them to respect their Suffrage opponents. The two elections in the London area were over almost as soon as they were begun, and little could be accomplished. It is not possible, however, to regret the defeat at Bethnal Green of Mr. Masterman, who, while always professing himself a Suffragist, is a willing apologist for the Government.

Parliament has met again, and the struggle upon the question of Home Rule for Ireland will certainly take a large part of the session. Suffragists can only hope that this ancient quarrel may at last be settled. It is comic to reflect how constantly men ask us, "Why can't you women all agree?" Meanwhile there is much talk of "Home Rule all round," and women will assuredly be voters for the subordinate Parliaments of Scotland and Wales. The Irish have chosen to wage war on women, while accepting all the devoted service that women have lavished on the cause of Ireland. But they will, too, no one can doubt it, be driven by force of circumstances to follow, if they will not lead.

The National Union is co-operating with a great daily paper, *The Daily News and Leader*, in a great Exhibition at Olympia (Kensington). The portion of it to be organised by the

National Union is to be called "WOMAN'S KINGDOM," and it will be open from April 11th to 30th. Visitors to London should make a point of seeing it. H. M. SWANWICK.

### HUNGARY.

#### Extended Propaganda in Country Towns.

After a preliminary work of scarcely two weeks on a yet unploughed soil, we had another harvest on the 2nd of February. As the result of the splendid work of Mrs. Odón Groag, Dr. Béla Leffler, and Dr. Paul Szöllösy, a new branch society of the Feministák Egyesülete was founded at Nyiregyháza with 96 members—Mrs. Groag as president, and Mrs. Leffler, a Swedish lady by birth, as secretary.

There is a remarkable awakening of interest in the country and a higher consideration for the Feministák Egyesülete, which is expressed by the invitations for lectures of an educational society for adults, the Free Lyceum. There were lectures by Vilma Glücklich in Szabadka and Ozd, the latter arranged by the Clerks and Engineers' Casino of the iron-works at the suggestion of the wife of one of the directors, Mrs. Zorkóczy, a zealous member of our society, and one by Mrs. Dr. Aranka Bálint Szél in Kaposvár, with the aid of Francziska Schwimmer.

The prelate, Dr. Sándor Giesswein, lectured within two hours in two country towns in his accustomed zealous manner—in Vágújhely Mrs. Bertha Engel, and in Trencsén with Vilma Glücklich in the chair.

Rózika Schwimmer, to whom the committee members of the Feministák Egyesülete arranged an intimate and hearty farewell gathering with expression of their fond wishes for a speedy re-visit, lectured in Fiume, en route to England, upon the heroic Finn struggle, and spoke again in Milan.

Lidia Kovács, journalist, and Anna Hadrik, actress, had an ingenious idea for propagating our paper, *A Nő*. To rouse the interest of members of Parliament they undertook to collect subscriptions from the members in the House of Parliament. We look forward with interest to the success of their enterprise.

At the last political committee meeting of the Feministák Egyesülete before the departure of the president of the committee, Rózika Schwimmer, several resolutions for future work were passed, of which the most important was to watch the political parties, which seem to be prepared for a revision of the Suffrage law and to continue parallel work for Woman Suffrage.

EGENIE MISKOLCSY MELLER.

Budapest, 18th of February, 1914.

### ITALY.

#### New Laws Affecting Women.

In a few days the Italian Parliament will be called to discuss and to vote on the following laws interesting women and the family:—

1.—The compulsory precedence of the religious one by civil marriage—(Children born from religious marriage are considered as *illegitimate* by the law; it is very easy for a man to be married by the Church more than once.)—presented by the Lord Chancellor, the Hon. Finocchiaro-Aprile.

2.—A law on *divorce*. (Divorce does not exist in Italy; in past years the Government itself presented schemes of laws on divorce, but now it is presented by the Hon. Comandini.)

3.—A law permitting inquiry into the paternity of illegitimate children. (It would protect children, but not mothers, not even if minors.) Presented by the Hon. Meda.

On these different arguments the Executive Committee of the Woman Suffrage Association has decided to ask the Deputies to vote in favour, but to try also to obtain amendments in the sense that the law should compel all those forms of unions (religious or free) to be legalised that may be a trap for minors, and worse, may end with the ruin and the forsaking of children.

Another argument more directly interesting Suffragism is the project of the Hon. Gallini of the municipal vote for women. Now that every man, even the illiterate, enjoys the rights of full citizenship, it is too humiliating for Italy to see all its women, however morally and intellectually and socially better than men, excluded from the right to have a voice on public business. The scheme of the Hon. Gallini was for giving the vote to the great majority of women; but the Parliamentary Commission elected to study the scheme has narrowed the original idea, and asks the vote for a few classes of women only, on special qualifications of academic titles or the licence from high schools.

Italian Suffragists will strenuously fight in favour of the first scheme—the vote to all—against that of the Parliamentary Commission.

ANITA DOBELLI-ZAMPETTI, Secretary,  
Federazione Nazionale Pro Suffragio Femminile.

#### Women's Civil Rights.\*

Last year, when the Italian Parliament discussed what was called "Universal Suffrage" (really Manhood Suffrage), Mr. Giolitti did not accept the Votes for Women proposition, saying that it was impossible that women should have political rights before having all civil rights. So the Government accepted Mr. Vaccaro's proposition that the concession of full civil rights to the women must precede the debate about political rights. The consequence of this was that in the speech from the Throne on the opening of Parliament it was promised that a law should be presented by the Government to give to woman "her right place in the family." Everybody knows that this means that woman shall have by law the full right to her own property, and perhaps also the same rights as men to her children. It is very little, as Italian Suffragists think, and they are not at all satisfied, although it is said that a law for divorce, and another for allowing the search for the paternity of illegitimate children, will be presented by private members of Parliament. Italian Suffragists hope that some private member will also present a Bill for giving to the women some political rights which every man has now fully in Italy.

#### Suffrage Congress.

The importance of the Suffragist Congress which took place in Rome (6th, 7th, 8th December, 1913) was in the fact that five of the political parties (Official Socialist, Reformed Socialist, Constitutional Democrats, Republicans, Radicals) had sent one or more representatives. This is the best proof of the real progress made by Suffragist ideas among our politicians. Also many Conservative members of Parliament were present, or had sent their greetings, although the Conservative Party has not yet votes for women in its official programme. Mrs. Dobelli-Zampetti's proposition that all Suffragist members of Parliament should unite in a *Suffragist Party or Group* (like the agrarian group and other groups which have been formed among our political men) will probably have a practical effect. Mrs. Lollini proposed also the constitution of a "Men's League for Women's Suffrage."

Mrs. Dobelli-Zampetti ended her very interesting speech about "Political Parties and Votes for Women" by proposing, first, that every constitutional party (*viz.*, every party but the clerical one) should send a representative member to the Suffragist organisation; secondly, that a women's representative should be on the Council of every constitutional party; thirdly, that Suffragist Societies should support *Democrat or Social Democratic Parties*. Naturally the two first propositions were accepted, but nobody can tell *if* and *when* they will be accepted by political parties, too! The third proposition was followed by a keen discussion, as many members (especially the representatives of the National Women's Council) did not agree with Mrs. Dobelli-Zampetti's point of view. Nevertheless, the proposition was accepted, but the practical importance of it is doubtful, as the Congress accepted in the meantime the proposition made by Dr. Ancona, *viz.*, that Italian Suffragist Societies are obliged to observe political neutrality, being members of the I.W.S.A.

In the following meetings the audience was interested by the account of the Budapest Suffrage Congress made by the representative of the Lombard Society for Votes for Women, and by the reading of Dr. Tarugi's very interesting paper about "Woman Suffrage in Connection with Italian Economic Life."

At the last meeting there was a discussion on the organisation of Suffragist Societies which are not yet united in a single body, but no resolution could be taken.

Nevertheless this Congress will have great importance for the Suffrage Movement in Italy. The Societies will work together, and probably a Central Bureau will be organised in Rome. M. A.

Milan, February 3rd, 1914.

#### Correction.

The election work mentioned in the January issue was done in Rome, not in Milan, and the candidates supported by the women were:—Barzilai (Republican), Bissolati (Socialist Reformist), Prince Gaetani (Democratic Constitutional),

\* The report from Milan appeared in the French edition for February; it arrived too late for the English edition.

Campanozzi (Socialist Revolutionary). These four were chosen because they were four out of forty-eight Deputies who had voted in favour of Woman Suffrage in the Chamber of Deputies, when the electoral reform law enfranchised all adult men including a large number of illiterates, and refused to enfranchise women. The women were so disgusted at the mere verbal expressions they received from so-called supporters, that they decided to disregard party, and support wholeheartedly men who showed by their actions that they supported the women. These new tactics on the part of Suffragists were much discussed in the Press.

#### Suffrage and the Economic Condition of Women in Italy.

(Resumé of the Report presented to the Suffrage Congress in Rome by Mmes. B. Baer and Dr. Tarugi, December, 1913.)

The figures of the census of 1911 are not yet published, but it appears certain that the number of working women is not less than six millions.

According to the census of 1901, 726,944 women were working in factories, *viz.*:—Piedmont 132,967, Lombardy 266,452, Venetia and Emilia 105,375, Central Italy 125,394; or, dividing them according to industries:—Textile industries 360,844 women, clothing factories 280,783, chemical and food products and metal works 95,317, building trades 12,000. The majority of women factory workers are to be found in North Italy, as the greater number of workers in Central and South Italy are engaged in agriculture, and the number of women working in the fields is unknown, though it is very large, as the census classes them as housewives. For the same reason the number of workers in home industries is not known exactly, though in Milan alone they amount to 15,000.

According to official reports, in textile industries there are 70,469 little girls under fourteen, and 250,553 between fifteen and twenty-one.

An inquiry which covered 1,900 factories and 38,000 work-women gave the wage of those under fifteen as 40 to 70 centimes. The wages are very low in agriculture and paper-making, and sometimes in the tobacco, wool, and silk industries. The highest wages, amounting to 2 francs a day, are also often found in the tobacco, silk, and wool industries. Female workers of from twenty to twenty-five receive about 1 lira to 150 per diem. In the Province of Novara the women of twenty to thirty-five in the woollen industry earn 150 to 2 lira a day.

In factories employing women, the hours of work are from 10 to 11, and the wages from 56 centimes to 160, and in woollen factories the hours vary from eight to eleven, and the wages from 1 lira 7 centimes to 3 lira. In the mines near Florence 87 women are employed, and work from eight to ten hours for a wage of 1 lira 13 centimes a day; and similarly in Rome 43 women are employed, and for eight hours' work receive 81 centimes a day.

In the Provinces of Alessandria, Genoa, and Rome, 195 women are employed in soap and candle factories, and for ten hours' work earn 1 lira 40 to 162; and in the Provinces of Venice and Bologna 206 women work in pastry factories and mills (manufacture of macaroni, etc.) nine or ten hours a day, for a wage of 1 lira 58 to 180.

It is very difficult to give the exact statistical results which would show the actual number of women who by their work contribute to the economic wealth of Italy. But in order to get an approximate idea of woman's useful work in various forms of human activity, it is sufficient to glance at the statistics of the city of Milan. There are in Milan 91,497 self-supporting women, whose work enriches the State and municipality—*viz.*, 2,730 professional women, 38,000 female factory workers, 15,000 workers in home industries, private employees (the exact number is unknown), 850 sick nurses, 110 school-keepers, 640 postal and telegraph employees, 67 municipal employees, 24,000 servants, 9,800 women engaged independently in trade and industry.

Italy has 63,643 female teachers, compared to 34,446 male, and a very large number of women with academic degrees, who either cannot practise their profession (*e.g.*, lawyers), or work under conditions inferior to those of their male colleagues.

These millions of women who work in fields and factories, in mines, and public and private industry, in public offices, and liberal professions, have they no right to the Suffrage, which is the only way to safeguard women's interests in relation to the State and Commune?

The report closes with fervent good wishes for the triumph of the Suffrage cause.

### NETHERLANDS.

#### Revision of the Constitution.

The Women Suffragists of Holland have been very busy the last few weeks, and will remain so this whole year. The reason is this: Our Government intends to prepare a revision of the Constitution with *Universal Male Suffrage* solidly insured in the new Constitution, and instead of giving also the Suffrage to women, believes that we will be content if in the new Constitution the obstacles which now prevent Woman Suffrage are taken away.

Of course, we are not content with such a negative favour. Therefore, the members of the Vereeniging voor Vrouwenkiesrecht resolved to start a strong and vivid campaign in order to prevent a new Constitution being accepted with unequal rights for men and women. As our Prime Minister, Cort van der Linden, in one of his Parliamentary speeches, said that he would govern the country in accordance with the wishes of the people, we shall try to get a distinct and irrefutable decision of the Dutch people about equal Constitutional rights for men and women.

At our annual meeting we resolved to organise a petition which now shall be for constitutional political equality for men and women, and to introduce that petition to the public we arranged a big street demonstration on Sunday, February 15th, in Amsterdam, and afterwards a public meeting in the largest hall of that town. It was the first time that our members walked in the streets in a procession with music and flags and banners. We were afraid that many of them would not dare to do it, but early in the morning on Sunday they came from all parts of the country by trains, steamers, and autos, most of them decorated with a broad white silk ribbon with *Constitutional Equality for Men and Women*, in large letters, printed on it. Nearly all the Branches came with their own banner, and as all of them are made in the white and golden Suffrage colours, and hundreds of young women carried small flags in the same colours, our procession formed a beautiful, bright line along the streets, and made a fine impression. The women from some parts of the country walked in their national dress.

From 12 till 1 o'clock about two thousand of us passed the most important streets of Amsterdam, through a compact mass of people, and not one disagreeable word was heard; we felt that every man in the street was in sympathy with us.

Thousands of people were gathered in the large Hall when we arrived soon after 1 o'clock, and among them were a hundred representatives of different Societies, which showed thereby their sympathy with our action. Both the Social Democrats and the Radicals sent us a speaker, who said that their political parties will stay on our side and will do what they are able to do to facilitate our heavy task in gathering the names of the people who are in favour of constitutional equality for men and women.

The first result of this our demonstration is that a lot of women and men want to be enlisted as members of our Vereeniging, and that nearly the whole Press speaks in favourable words about our action. We know now that a large part of the public is on our side.

We have to keep the interest taken by the people in our claim going on during this whole year in an ever-increasing way; therefore we are considering already what the next new action shall be.

ALETTA H. JACOBS.

Vereeniging voor Vrouwenkiesrecht.

#### Erroneous Statements About Holland.

The January number of *Jus* contains within the short space of not quite half a page so many erroneous notes about our country that we feel compelled to send in the following corrections:—

Firstly, then, it is stated that "the authorities refuse the necessary permission" (*viz.*, to our first female Doctor of Theology to preach in Church). Now, if it is true that the majority of the Synod of our Dutch Protestant Church is not yet inclined to admit female clergymen, it is not less true that the Mennonite Brotherhood has been so liberal to women as not to make any objection in admitting women as regular parsons. In June, 1911, Miss Zernike, after passing all the required examinations, was nominated simultaneously in three parishes!

So it certainly is not Iceland, as is to be read in the December number of *Jus*, "that will have the honour of being the

first country in Europe where women preach, not as guests in a church, but as ministers." This happy event took place in the Netherlands two and a half years ago!

The following information, "Equal Pay for Equal Work in Holland"—a title which only refers to the first part of the notice, as the second part has nothing whatever to do with "pay"—is erroneous from the beginning to the end.

The Hague Municipal Council debated in the summer of 1913 whether men and women teachers (at High Schools and Gymnasiums) should not receive (in future), but continue to receive, equal pay for equal work, and has decided not against, but in favour of women. So in that municipality the principle of equality is maintained, and even extended to the Directress of the High School for Girls, whose salary formerly was the same as that of the Director of the 3 years High School for Boys, and is now brought on a level with that of the Director of the 5 years High School for Boys. The Hague Municipal Council is a body which has shown itself on several occasions very liberal towards women. So, for instance, it has decided, in consequence of an address on this subject by our Society, that the trade school for shoemaking should receive a subvention only upon condition that girl pupils should be admitted on exactly the same terms as the boy pupils. And probably the same conditions will be made, without our asking again, with regard to the trade school for upholstery.

Further we read: "Great agitation is also going on over a new law which came into force shortly before the fall of the last Government, forbidding night work of women. This, it is thought, will, unless repealed, drive women out of the telephone, telegraph, and postal services. . . ." Now, there is no question whatever about a new law forbidding night work of women. There has been a Ministerial order (all resolutions of this kind are in the province of the Minister of Hydretechnics, Minister of the Waterstaat), forbidding work late in the evening, in the night, and early morning for women post and telegraph officers.

This decree did not come into force "shortly," but one year and a half before the fall of the last Government, in January, 1912.

The order has been opposed by the women concerned on many grounds, but not because they feared to be driven out of the telegraph and postal services, much less out of the telephone service, because the limitations of work time did not extend to the telephone service!

It is very unlikely the order mentioned above excited agitation in the month of December, as it was already repealed in October, 1913, by the new Liberal Minister of the Waterstaat, who does not agree on this point with his clerical predecessor!

We are of opinion that it is not by making mistakes of this sort, nor by exaggerating our grievances, but by stating things exactly as they are, and by loyally recognising when justice is done to women, that we promote our Common Cause!

For the National Bureau (of the Netherlands)  
for Women's Work,

ANNA POLAK.

The Hague, February 9th, 1914.

EDITOR'S NOTE.—We are glad to publish these corrections, and regret to have published inaccurate notes. The notes in question were translated from the organ of the Vereeniging voor Vrouwenkiesrecht by a Dutch lady living in London.

#### SWEDEN.

In my last report I said that "the present political situation in our country was such as may give rise to many unexpected combinations and complications." But I did not then guess that our political life should be turned upside down so soon and to such an extent as it has been now. As the political situation is closely connected with our Suffrage question, and many readers of *Jus Suffragii* may not be acquainted with political conditions in Sweden, it will perhaps be of some interest to give a short recapitulation of the events that have led to the present situation.

For many reasons—and lately because of the conflicts in the Balkan Peninsula—the question of our national defence has come to stand in the foreground of our political life. The three political parties—or at least their representatives in Parliament—agree as to the necessity of defence, but differ as to the quantity and the means of carrying it through. The Conservatives want a strong defence at any cost; the Liberals defence in proportion to the resources of the country, and built on the confidence of the people; the Social Democrats a limita-

tion of military burdens, which they consider already too heavy.

The Liberal Government, with Karl Staaff as its Prime Minister, had on its programme the solution of the question of defence, and shortly before Christmas the Prime Minister made a speech in which he drew the lines of what Government intended to present to Parliament on that question. By this the efficiency of our forces would have been considerably increased. Still, the Prime Minister made an exception for the training time of the infantry, which he could not propose to extend without hearing the result of the elections to the Second Chamber.

It is a fact that the Prime Minister's proposal contained about the utmost of what could be obtained by the present Parliament, i.e., too much for the Social Democrats, and too little for the Conservatives.

In order to show that the people were willing to bear the burdens of a strong defence, peasants from all parts of the country went up to Stockholm and waited upon the King. In his answer to the spokesman of the 30,000 peasants, His Majesty the King declared that he was not of the same opinion as those who wished to defer the question of the training time of the infantry to another session of Parliament; he wished the question of defence to be treated immediately and undivided. Further, he said that he did not intend to give up any of the claims that the military authorities considered indispensable. By these words the King fixed his own position to the question of defence before it had been definitely laid before him, and disavowed his ministers, who immediately asked him to give an explanation of his meaning, which would make it possible for them to stay. The declaration of the King did not satisfy the Government, which then had nothing to do but to resign. When the King tried to get another Liberal Government, and failed, the only way was to nominate a Conservative Government, or, as it is called, "a non-party Government for the solution of the question of defence." Its first act was to announce that the King intended to dissolve Parliament and order new elections.

I need not tell you what disastrous effect this change of Government will have on our Suffrage question. For how long it will be laid aside it is for the present impossible to say, and also at what time we may have an opportunity of presenting our Manifesto.

Stockholm, February, 1914.

EZALINE BOHEMAN.

#### SWITZERLAND.

Our country's voice has so far only made itself feebly heard in the great international concert of the Woman Suffrage movement. We are only in the first stage of Suffrage work, which means spreading our ideas by pamphlets, lectures, and various meetings. Generally speaking, more urgent demands and methods would be premature here. How is it that Switzerland, which is certainly one of the most advanced countries in all that concerns democratic institutions and social reforms, is so backward in what concerns women's political rights? Perhaps it is for the very reason that law and custom have given women a position with which many are satisfied. They have free access to the University and to the chief liberal careers; the provisions of the Civil Code of 1912 are in many ways more equitable than in other countries; our democratic ways secure great freedom to women, . . . and that is enough for the majority who do not realise that in numberless ways they are treated with absolute injustice.

#### Women and the Councils of Prud'hommes.

We have at this moment in Geneva a striking example of the way in which democratic institutions can be used against women.

Four years ago—in February, 1910—a law was passed which gave women the vote and eligibility to the Courts of Prud'hommes (professional courts). This law was never applied, and last year a popular initiative (the right of citizens to demand the adoption or suppression of a law) was started to demand the abrogation of the law, and on pretexts such as this—that it is too great an expense to the State to register women electors!

Thus by this popular initiative, which is clearly one of the most democratic features of our Constitution, this law of the prud'femmes will again be submitted to the people of Geneva, probably next month. The result of this popular vote causes us some anxiety, and we are devoting our energies and all the means at our disposal to secure a favourable result.

#### Women on Education Committees.

The Women's Union of Lausanne succeeded a few years ago in getting a modification of the Education Committee Regulations in Vaud. The original regulations laid down that the members of the Education Committee should be nominated from among the active citizens. These four words have been expunged from the present text, and there is now nothing to prevent women taking part in Education Committees. The eight Women's Unions of Canton Vaud based their claim on this enactment when, last November, they addressed a petition to the Communal authorities, asking the newly elected municipalities to reserve some appointments for women in nominating members of the Education Committees in January, 1914. Up to the present three municipalities—Mézières, Aigle, and La Tour de Peilz—have replied by summoning women to the Education Committee. It is little, but we are not blasé in the matter of feminist victories!

#### Women Lawyers.

At Neuchâtel a Bill has been introduced giving women the right to practise as barristers in that canton.

#### Teachers' Salaries.

At Chaud de Fonds the General Council has voted equal increase of salaries to male and female teachers. It is a pity they did not seize the opportunity to equalise the initial salary of men and women.

EMILIE GOULD,  
Editor of the *Mouvement Féministe*.

### UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

#### Woman Suffrage Bill in the House of Assembly.

This month has brought a severe disappointment to those who were looking forward to the Suffrage Conference (the Annual Conference of the W.E.A.U.), which should have been held in Johannesburg. All arrangements were made, and everything pointed to a most successful conference, when at the last moment the Railway Strike and the declaration of Martial Law compelled its postponement. It cannot now be held before the Easter holidays. The Conference was already somewhat overdue, and its delay is a serious misfortune to the Movement, though we shall do our utmost to turn it to advantage by improving the arrangements where possible. Eighteen Societies had arranged to send delegates to the Conference, and it is probable that by Easter this number will have increased. The programme included a public meeting, at which members of Parliament and others had promised to speak, and a performance of Elizabeth Robbins' play, "Votes for Women." These, we hope, are only pleasures deferred.

A Women's Enfranchisement Bill, of which a copy is enclosed, will be introduced into Parliament during the Session. The introducer, the Hon. Hugh Wyndham, is a prominent Unionist, but the Bill is a purely non-party measure, and will, it is hoped, obtain support from all sides of the House. There is little chance that its fate will be different from that of any private member's Bill to which the two principal parties refuse their support. Nevertheless the first introduction of a Woman Suffrage Bill into a South African Legislative House will be distinctly a notable event.

IDA G. HYETT,  
Secretary Women's Enfranchisement Association of the  
Union of South Africa.

January, 1914.

EDITORIAL NOTE.—A Reuter telegram of February 19th announced that the Women's Enfranchisement Bill introduced by Mr. Wyndham was negatived on the first reading by one vote—43 to 42.

Although it is very disappointing to miss enfranchisement by so small a majority, South African women feel that this vote shows a great advance. On the last occasion of a Woman Suffrage debate in the South African Parliament, in March, 1913, no vote was taken, and the speeches against were on a low level; one opponent characterised the proposal as a devilish one. The Prime Minister, Botha, sat "on the fence," where he still is. An amendment was down for April, but was withdrawn. Since then a great deal of steady work has been done, and the tour made by Miss Newcomb and Miss Hodge, the British apostles of Woman Suffrage, helped materially in giving facts concerning the actual working of the women's vote in Australia and New Zealand. Another important factor in changing South African opinion has been indignation at

the breach of faith on the part of the Home Government to Woman Suffragists. Opinion is now so far favourable to the women that a still better result might have been achieved, and success won, had it not been for the very serious Labour unrest which has disturbed and excited South Africa. Public opinion is nervous, and dreads any change, in particular in a country where white men are so overwhelmingly outnumbered that the fear of a coloured rising makes men timid and conservative.

#### BILL

To enable Women to be registered as Voters for the Election of Members of the House of Assembly.

BE IT ENACTED by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, the Senate and House of Assembly of the Union of South Africa as follows:—

Women to be entitled to registration as voters when possessing qualifications prescribed in different Provinces.

1. Notwithstanding anything contained in the Constitution Ordinance of the Cape of Good Hope, the Charter of Natal, the Transvaal Constitution Letters Patent, 1907; the Orange River Colony Constitution Letters Patent, 1907; and any amendments thereof, whereby persons of the male sex only are entitled to be registered as voters for the election of members of the House of Assembly, the said Ordinance Charter and Letters Patent and all amendments thereof shall, subject to the next succeeding section, be read and construed as if the provisions thereof relating to the qualification of voters included persons of the female as well as of the male sex.

2. Where by any law in force for the time being in any province the possession, occupation, or renting of property of a certain value is prescribed as entitling persons to be registered as voters for the election of members of the House of Assembly, a married woman living with her husband shall not be deemed to be entitled to be so registered in respect of property possessed, occupied, or rented by her jointly with her husband unless the value of such property is at least twice the amount prescribed by such law.

3. This Act may be cited for all purposes as the Women's Enfranchisement Act, 1914.

### PROGRESS IN THE UNITED STATES.

The National American Woman Suffrage Association has appointed the following women to serve on its Congressional Committee for the year:—Mrs. Medill McCormick, of Chicago, chairman; Mrs. Desha Breckenridge, of Lexington, Ky.; Mrs. Sherman Booth, of Chicago, Ill.; Mrs. James Tucker, of San Francisco, Cal.; Mrs. Mary C. C. Bradford, of Colorado; Mrs. Edward Drier, of Brooklyn, N.Y.; Mrs. Antoinette Funk, of Chicago. Offices have been opened in Washington, D.C. The Committee will organise every Congressional District in the United States in co-operation with the State Associations. Mrs. McCormick said: "Our policy in regard to Congress is to be one of education and argument in order to pass the amendment. We appreciate the support we are being given by many Democrats as well as Republicans and Progressives throughout the country, and intend to maintain a perfectly non-partisan attitude. The passage of the Suffrage Bill in the Illinois Legislature last May was the most important victory achieved by the Suffragists in this country. That Bill was introduced in the Lower House in Illinois by a Democrat, and we Illinois Suffragists will never be able to forget the loyalty and faithfulness with which he guarded our every interest."

Much to cheer and encourage has been accomplished during the month. The only shadow was the action of the Democratic Party caucus. Every effort has been made to persuade the House to create a Standing Committee on Woman Suffrage. The Senate has such a committee. In the House the Judiciary Committee is supposed to look after the interests of Woman Suffrage. But that committee is such a busy one, and has such a wide range of subjects to cover, that the interests of Suffrage could better be served by a special committee. On the evening of February 3rd, the House Democratic floor leader, Mr. Underwood, called a party caucus to vote on the question of the appointment of such a committee. The party voted against it on the ground that Woman Suffrage is a subject for action by the States

and not a question upon which Congress should act, and that any action by the Federal Government would be an infringement of "States Rights."

Upon hearing that the caucus had voted against the appointment of the Standing Committee, Dr. Anna Howard Shaw, National President, said: "The action of the Democratic Caucus in refusing to endorse the appointment of a committee on Suffrage in the House of Representatives is largely due to their position on the question of 'State Rights'—a position which Democrats and Republicans alike urge whenever the interests of their States demand it, but which they alike ignore, as in the case of the Income Tax and the Direct Vote for Senators. The 'States Rights' cry is a convenient weapon whenever the politicians in Congress seek to evade an issue; but the issue of Woman Suffrage must be faced by Congress sooner or later, and the appeal of the National Suffrage Association to Congress to pass a constitutional amendment will be followed as vigorously in the future as it has been for more than fifty years."

#### ILLINOIS.

On the same day two other important events happened. February 3rd was registration day in Chicago, Illinois. The Bill giving Suffrage on all but Constitutional offices became a law on July 1st, 1913, but the election for Aldermen in Chicago to be held February 28th is the first important one at which women will vote. We have heard so much to the effect that women would not vote even when they were given the opportunity, but that "bogey" has been forever laid by the action of the women of Chicago. More than 158,000 women registered, and long lines of women from the factories, who had been unable to register earlier in the day, were waiting at the booths when the closing hour came. Had they had time to register, the number would have neared 200,000. All who have registered can of course vote on February 28th. On March 17th there will be another registration day, when those who were disappointed on February 3rd will have a chance to register. With the natural increase in male registration and the women, Chicago will now have a much larger eligible voters' list than has Greater New York.

#### NEW JERSEY.

And on February 3rd, in New Jersey, the women rewon the victory they had won the previous year. The resolution for a State Constitutional amendment was passed by the Assembly in 1913; through a clerical error the notice required by law to be published within ninety days was not published, and the vote was nullified. The work had to be done over again this year, and the women went at it with the same energy and courage which has always characterised their actions. Judge Joseph M. Brannigan, who has been a faithful friend of the Bill, pushed it through to the third reading, and almost before people were aware that it was to be voted upon, the victory had been rewon by a vote of 49 to 4. The Bill now goes to the State Senate. If it is accepted by that body it will have to be passed again by the next Legislature before it can be submitted to the voters.

#### KENTUCKY AND SOUTHERN STATES.

In Kentucky the Bill has been introduced in the House, and a very signal honour was conferred upon Mrs. Desha Breckinridge, the State President of the Suffrage Association, when she was asked to speak for the Bill on the floor of the House.

In Virginia the Bill is before the House, and is to be argued on the 12th. Among the speakers will be many women of prominence from all over the States.

In Mississippi, although the House defeated the Woman Suffrage resolution by a vote of 80 to 42, the newspapers called it a triumph. This because Mississippi has been one of the most conservative of the States, and the fact that Suffrage has obtained a hearing and actually got a vote of more than a third is considered a great victory. There is such a strong sentiment in the State at present that it is reported that the Legislature abruptly adjourned to avoid a discussion of the subject. The younger generation of women in the State are all actively interested.

The State Legislatures of fourteen States will meet during 1914. There are four States which are called "campaign" States—that is, those in which the last step will be taken this year. They are Montana, Nevada, and North and South Dakota. In each the question goes to the voters in November, and a hard "man-to-man" campaign is being made.

Nebraska, Ohio, and Missouri have initiative petition laws providing for the submission to electors of the Constitutional amendment. Nebraska will have the required number of signatures by March, and it will probably take its place as a campaign State this year. Ohio and Missouri are at work securing names to the petition to submit the question to the voters, with the strong probability that they can do it.

The four semi-campaign States are New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Iowa. In these the amendment must pass another Legislature before it can be submitted.

The birthdays of Miss Susan B. Anthony and Dr. Anna Howard Shaw were jointly celebrated by an elaborate affair. The ballroom of the handsome new Biltmore Hotel was engaged for the occasion. It accommodates about 1,500 people. First there was an interesting programme, beginning with a march dedicated to Suffrage; Edith Wynne Matthieson read, and Florence Fleming Noyes presented the "Dance of Victory." There were songs by distinguished artistes; and the famous Russian dancer, Lydia Lopoukova, danced and made a speech. Mrs. Catt was the orator. After the entertainment, tea was poured by two score of popular actresses, and there was dancing. This celebration was given under the auspices of the New York State Association on February 16th.

### NEWS FROM SOCIETIES NOT AFFILIATED TO THE ALLIANCE.

The I.W.S.A. disclaims all responsibility for statements and opinions of contributors from non-affiliated Societies. It is thought that readers wish to hear the views of other organisations, but they must not be taken as in any way endorsed by the I.W.S.A.

#### GREAT BRITAIN.

##### Report of the Women's Social and Political Union.

On the evening of the opening of Parliament, Tuesday, February 11th, Mrs. Pankhurst, who had returned to England to carry on her work in the Movement, addressed a large and enthusiastic crowd from a house in Camden Hill Square.

At the close of her speech she announced her intention of challenging the Government to arrest her, and a few minutes later left the house, surrounded by a bodyguard of women. An attack was made on the little party by an army of police and plain-clothes men, but the defence of the women and the hostile attitude of the crowd completely baffled them, and Mrs. Pankhurst escaped. Six women were arrested, including a lady whom the police had mistaken for Mrs. Pankhurst, and who was dragged in a fainting condition to the police station, where she was charged with assault and obstruction. Her sworn statement and the evidence given before a Commissioner of Oaths by eye-witnesses of the whole disgraceful attack, subsequently published in *The Suffragette*, aroused considerable attention in the Press.

On Saturday, February 21st, Mrs. Pankhurst addressed an open-air meeting from a house at Chelsea, and was enthusiastically welcomed by a crowd of about a thousand. Mrs. Pankhurst, accompanied by the bodyguard, left the house openly on the following evening, and after a fierce struggle was again successful in making her escape.

During the last month a great effort has been made to arouse the Church to take action against the horrible torture of forcible feeding as practised at present on Suffragist prisoners. Deputations of W.S.P.U. members waited on the Bishop of London, and as a result of their appeal the Bishop twice visited Holloway Gaol. Unfortunately, the Bishop did not witness the actual process, and his whole account is in glaring contrast to the statements made by Suffragist prisoners since released. Deputations have also visited the Archbishop of York, with equally unsatisfactory results.

There is strong medical evidence, supported by the women themselves, that the Suffragist prisoners are drugged in order to reduce their powers of resistance. Miss Phyllis Brady, recently released on bail pending her trial, was examined by her medical attendant, who discovered distinct indications of the employment of a drug.

The W.S.P.U. has continued to carry on an energetic militant and Constitutional campaign throughout the country, and has taken an active and effective part against the Government.

The unseating of Mr. Masterman at Bethnal Green was in no small degree the result of the W.S.P.U. activity in the constituency.

#### New Constitutional Society for Women's Suffrage.

Lord Robert Cecil recently suggested that there still remained a constitutional weapon for British women to use in their struggle for the Parliamentary franchise, namely, the municipal vote which they already possess. The New Constitutional Society has promptly acted on this advice, and is asking all its members to ascertain the views of candidates standing for Municipal Councils, and to refuse to vote for those who are opposed to the Parliamentary enfranchisement of women. It is believed that the N.C.S. is the first Suffrage Society to take official action in this matter; but it is hoped that other societies will soon follow suit, and let their united pressure be felt in this way. The N.C.S. took part in the Bethnal Green Election, when Mr. Masterman, newly promoted to Cabinet rank, was defeated by 24 votes. The Suffrage Societies which were working against Mr. Masterman may well take credit to themselves for having turned sufficient votes to cause the loss of his seat.

#### GERMANY.

##### Women Shop Assistants.

Johanna Waescher, in an interesting article in the *Frau der Gegenwart*, describes the difficulties put in the way of women shop assistants. The Deutsch Nationale Handlungsgehilfen Verband, with a membership, of 120,000, has definitely allied itself with the Anti-League. Professional jealousy moves it not only to oppose Women's Vote, but their right to earn a living. The strongest opposition is shown to commercial continuation schools, and every effort made to substitute domestic economy schools. In many towns the D.H.V. has prevented the opening of commercial schools for girls, and it has successfully agitated for compulsory instruction in domestic economy for girls attending existing commercial schools. An administrative order of November 6th gives effect to this policy, which is now being carried out with regrettable results. The girls sacrifice the efficiency of their commercial training, they are overworked, and their employer is annoyed by having to release them in business hours to get instruction which is of no use to him. On January 3rd a conference was held of unions of women shop assistants and others engaged in business, at which a resolution was passed demanding equal conditions of commercial training for male and female pupils in commercial evening schools, and condemning the substitution of domestic economy instruction in place of the full commercial course for female pupils.

It is, we notice, a distinguishing feature of the policy of closing all lucrative careers to the "weaker sex" to add to the girl's and woman's struggle and burden by heaping unpaid work upon her. All women should awake to the danger threatening their right to live, and claim their right as citizens to safeguard their liberty to choose their occupations. The Anti-Suffragists' real aim is to keep women in a condition of helpless dependence on man, only able to exist by his favour and "protection."

##### Women and the Military Tax.

The same paper has an article by Gertrud Buetz explaining the new burden upon women imposed by the new military tax. Whereas according to German law a wife's property and earnings are considered her own, and taxed separately, this new law lumps her property with her husband's, and taxes them jointly, so that whereas unmarried persons with property of less than 10,000 marks are exempt, if they are married, and their joint property exceeds 10,000 marks in value, they are taxed. (The same injustice exists in the levying of the English income-tax.)

##### Regulation of Vice.

Little progress has been made by Abolitionists. While State regulation has been abolished in England, Holland, Denmark, Norway, German-Switzerland, and Italy, it is still maintained in France and Germany. The great hope for the future lies in the rapid change of medical opinion, which now almost universally condemns police control of prostitutes. A Congress has been convened in Munich for March by the local branch of the German Society for Fighting Venereal Disease, and representatives of the Abolitionists will defend their cause, including Katharina Scheven and Prof. Blaschko.

### NEWS FROM COUNTRIES WHERE WOMEN VOTE.

#### Woman Suffrage at Work in America.

A remarkable inquiry has been carried out by a mixed committee of Suffragists and Anti-Suffragists of high position in Great Britain into the working of Woman Suffrage in the States of America where women are enfranchised. One might say that the dice were loaded against the Suffragists, for the inquiry was only addressed to persons who were not known as supporters or opponents of Suffrage, and it is obvious that in the struggle for women's liberty most people who support the women do so publicly. Questions were sent out to prominent professional men and a few women living in Suffrage States, and the replies have been scrutinised by Suffragists and Anti-Suffragists, whose spokesmen have published their comments on them in the February issue of the English magazine, *The XIX. Century and After*.

Sixty-three replies were received; forty-six were favourable, eight neutral, five vaguely unfavourable, and only four hostile. When we consider that known supporters of the Suffrage were barred, that all these replies are from persons living under equal Man and Woman Suffrage, and that it was confidential, so that no person replying did so with any fear of giving offence, this result is overwhelming proof of the approval of Woman Suffrage by impartial experienced men.

Most of the writers emphasise the moral influence of women's vote. One gentleman writes: "I do not think we could have cleaned up the city (Seattle) in 1911 but for the women. At that time I was opposed to Woman Suffrage, but since that time I have become favourable." Another writes: "The whole attitude of lawmakers with regard to women's legislation has changed since the adoption of Woman Suffrage. Our present good conditions are due to the women." Some of the answers from California are as follows:—

1. The forces making for civic decency and cleanliness and good government in San Francisco have been enormously strengthened.
2. It has tended to make politics cleaner. It has placed some most excellent laws on our statute book regarding child labour, minimum wage boards, shorter hours, anti-vice laws, etc.
3. The objectors are silenced in our actual experience under the law.
4. They have been a very definite constructive force in our legislation; have shown more definiteness and efficiency, and a more unmixt public spirit, than men.
5. From being prejudiced against it, I have become a mild convert through its good effects.
6. These (six named laws) were all passed through direct influence of the votes behind the women.
7. Women are now able to enforce their point of view—e.g., women have been trying for years to have a law for equal guardianship [by parents of children] passed in California. It was passed without question in the first legislature after the women were enfranchised, though backed by exactly the same women who had been pushing for the measure all along.

Several answers mention the good work of the women in voting the dismissal of a judge who was lenient to vicious men.

Other writers testify that the women's vote has raised the character of candidates and increased the interest taken by women in politics.

None of the replies attribute any evil results to the women's vote; the answers from every State attribute good to it, and in many cases detailed and enthusiastic tribute is paid to it.

When we consider the case which the poor Anti-Suffragists have tried to make in reply, one can only laugh and pity their discomfiture. The worst that their official champion can say is that the Woman Suffrage States are less densely populated than those on the East Coast! To which it might be replied that the Western States are the most purely American, and, in some ways, the most progressive, whereas the dense population of the Eastern States is recruited from the dregs of South-Eastern Europe, who take their unprogressive ideals and habits with them, and form a stumbling-block in the way of reform.

When we examine the few answers that are classified as hostile, we find no basis for the very mild hostility expressed. One gentleman prophesies "it will weaken home ties"! Another answer seems to be counted as hostile on very insufficient grounds. The writer, an Easterner, settled for a few years in Wyoming, says "the increased responsibility has

been well borne. . . . In general the granting of the Suffrage to women is an increase of the ignorant vote, but it has not been so in Wyoming, owing to the very high intellectual average among the women. The experience of Wyoming is no guarantee of the effect of equal Suffrage where conditions are different"! Here we clearly have an Anti from the Eastern States reluctantly obliged to admit that Suffrage is a success, but trying to act up to his prejudices by saying it might be a failure somewhere else!

Other answers say that the main forces behind the women's movement were moral forces, and the main opposition from the drink interest.

They agree that the balance of parties has not been altered, and that there is no demand anywhere for the disfranchisement of women.

As to the laws which women have been instrumental in passing, the answers testify to the beneficial effects on conditions of women's labour, protection of women and girls, temperance, education, sanitation and milk, industrial arbitration, and widows' pensions.

We need not recapitulate here the information on these points contained in the recent numbers of *Jus Suffragii*.

In conclusion, there emerges from this inquiry, as from so many others, the evident expectation on the part of supporters and opponents alike, that greater results are to be expected from women's enfranchisement than from that of men. The question always is: In what way have women improved on men?

No precedent can be found for these high expectations from the newly enfranchised. Was it considered necessary before enfranchising agricultural labourers to demonstrate how other peasants had purified their State? On the contrary, in the case of men, excuses have been made for the ignorance and inexperience of new voters. This attitude of critical expectancy towards women is a tribute to their conscientiousness and intelligence, but it is unreasonable to expect women to be on a totally different and superior plane to that of their menfolk.

#### The National Council of Women Voters.

The National Council of Women Voters will hold a Convention in San Francisco in 1915, during the time of the Panama Exposition to be held there. This Convention, we trust, will not only be national, but international in its scope. Through the columns of this paper we hope to interest the women voters of the world. The Exposition authorities have set aside for the formal sessions of the Council a splendid hall in the Auditorium, now in process of erection at the Civic Centre.

An incident occurred in the State of Washington which exemplifies the fact that women have more power since attaining political independence. In the city of Port Orchard the woman post-mistress was deposed, and the reason given by the official who deprived her of her office was, she had married! The Member of Congress from her district, the Honourable J. W. Bryan, became so much interested in her case that he introduced a bill in the House calling for a Committee of Investigation, and immediately the orders came from Washington to reinstate the post-mistress. She is now in peaceable possession of the post-office, and her husband as well.

Proof of the wholesome and growing respect shown to the woman voter is exemplified in the following bill introduced in the United States Senate by the Honourable Wesley L. Jones, senior senator of the State of Washington. This bill proposes to set apart a tract of land in the Capital of the United States, to be known as "The Acropolis," and a portion of that tract to be known as "The Parthenon," the latter to be dedicated, and monuments erected therein, to the achievements of women. The Fine Arts Commission will pass upon all memorials and monuments erected in this space.

In introducing this bill, Senator Jones said, "I selected these ancient names in gratitude to the Greek poet Euripides, whose play, 'The Medea,' contains the earliest extant plea for Woman Suffrage. The chorus has been translated something like this:—

And woman, yea woman, shall be terrible in story;  
And tales thereof one telleth shall be other than of yore.  
For a fear there is that cometh out of woman, and a glory,  
And the hard hating voices shall encompass her no more.  
The idea of having a beautiful figure to represent the Qualified Voter has been suggested to displace the ridiculous caricatures formerly used by Anti-Suffrage newspapers against the

women who were seeking political freedom, and various artists have been requested to submit drawings or sketches to the Council of Women Voters, portraying the qualities of Courage, Intelligence, and Strength amounting to Hardihood, coupled with Love, Gentleness, and Chastity.

#### Excerpts from the Report from Alaska by Mrs. James Wickersham, Wife of the Delegate in Congress.

The old saying that the last shall be first, and the first shall be last, is peculiarly applicable to the Woman's Suffrage situation in Alaska.

The United States purchased Alaska in 1867; Congress provided for the appointment of a Governor and Judges in 1884; but it was not until 1912 that Congress provided a legislative body for the last great frontier territory.

By a proviso in the ninth section of the Act of August 24th, 1912, creating the Legislature of Alaska and extending power to legislate, Congress provided, "That nothing herein contained shall be held to abridge the right of the Legislature to modify the qualifications of electors by extending the elective franchise to women."

The first bill introduced on the first legislative day of the meeting of the first Legislature of the Territory of Alaska gave effect to this proviso in the Act of Congress. It was the first bill to pass the House, and the first to pass the Senate, and was the first bill to be signed by the Governor, becoming a law on March 21st, 1913.

The bill passed without a single dissenting vote in either branch of the Legislature.

Now a woman has the same civil rights in Alaska that her husband or brother has, and Section 495 of the Act provides that—"All laws that impose or recognise civil disability on a wife which are not imposed or recognised as existing as to the husband, are hereby repealed; and for any unjust usurpation of her property or natural rights she shall have the same right to appeal in her own name alone to all courts for redress that the husband has."

This status is not based on mere chivalry, but is the result of the belief of the fundamental proposition that the wives and sisters of Alaskans are as good as the men, and have equal burdens with them in extending civilisation into the undeveloped regions.

#### THE WOMEN'S VOTE IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND.

##### A Reply to an Anti-Suffrage Challenge.

My article on the effect of the Woman's Vote in Australia and New Zealand, published in the January number of *Jus Suffragii*, is most severely attacked by an anonymous writer in the *Anti-Suffrage Review* for February, under the scathing title of "Facts and Fiction." The writer appears to have no knowledge of New Zealand and its conditions, and no statistical information about Australia subsequent to 1910; but he states that all my facts about the latter country are entirely contradicted by Miss Jessie Ackerman's "Australia from a Woman's Point of View," which was published in 1913, but her last visit to that country was apparently somewhat earlier.

Anti-Suffragists have always hitherto stated that if the Woman's Vote could be proved to have been beneficial in Australasia, this would be no argument for giving the Franchise to the women of the British Isles, as the conditions in the Motherland are so totally different from those in the daughter countries. Therefore, on their own showing, even if the Woman's Vote were a failure in Australia and New Zealand, that is no proof whatever that it would be a failure in Great Britain.

In my article in *Jus Suffragii* I quoted the Resolutions of the Federal Parliament in favour of the working of Woman's Suffrage, and my critic says:—"Without doubt these will carry weight with all seriously minded people, who would also not fail to be impressed by a resolution passed by a conference of waiters in favour of tipping." I have forwarded this flattering picture of their legislators to an Australian paper, as the work of an Anti-Suffragist, and the readers at the Antipodes will, no doubt, be impressed by its accuracy and its elegance. I would, however, remind the anonymous writer that even if the members at Melbourne were so ready to

sacrifice principle to preserve office, they represent the men as well as the women of Australia, and the former constitute the majority of the electorate.

Another article in the same *Review*, entitled "The Vote in Australia," deals with the repudiation of Sir Almoth Wright's statement about the Women Voters in the Commonwealth. This repudiation was urged on the Federal Parliament (House of Representatives) by a leading Labour member, Dr. Maloney, and a leading Liberal, Mr. Kelly. This repudiation was no "mere reference," but these two members delivered most eloquent speeches upon the subject, and the two champions of the Women's Vote were naturally speaking for the two great political parties in the State. If they were not, why was there not a protest? That time should be found to defend the attitude of nearly half the electorate against an attack such as that of the great scientist is quite a matter of course in Australia; but the writer in the *Anti-Suffrage Review* is accustomed to regard women as mere nonentities in politics, and championship of them in any form is naturally a waste of time where women are voteless and men unchivalrous. I stated that a very large percentage of women had recorded their votes; this is proved by a comparison with the percentages at English elections. The percentages of those men and women who recorded their votes for the Federal elections to the House of Representatives since 1903 are as follows:—

Date.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1903	56.47	43.50	50.27
1906	57.36	44.81	51.48
1910	68.12	56.93	62.80
1913	77.22	69.71	73.66

showing a steady increase in the percentage of voters, and a greater increase among Female than Male Voters. This increase is in spite of the fact that, in consequence of the fine of £2 for non-enrolment, the number of those registered as voters is commensurate with those qualified to vote. It would represent a much larger percentage in an English constituency, where there are always a large number qualified that are not on the register. Considering the distances to be traversed in the Bush to the nearest polling station, and the lack of domestic help in the home, which makes it occasionally impossible for the mother to leave her young children for a whole day, the percentage of women who record their votes is an admirable tribute to their recognition of their political responsibilities.

I stated that in some places the percentage of women voting was higher than that of men. This was the case at a by-election at Brighton (Victoria) in 1909, where 83 per cent. of the women voted, and 64 per cent. of the men; at South Brisbane in April, 1912; and at Mackay, North Queensland, on the same date.

Mackay ..... 67.78 per cent. men. 72.22 per cent. women.  
S. Brisbane ... 77.11 per cent. men. 77.86 per cent. women.

That the Woman's Vote has raised the whole tone of Parliamentary life is universally acknowledged. It is a fact that cannot be proved by statistics, but the evidence of leading men who have lived in States and countries where the Woman's Vote is exercised wholly confirm my statement. One opinion on the subject may be disregarded, but a consensus of opinion cannot be treated with contempt.

Mr. Deakin, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth in 1906, definitely stated that this fact (the Woman's Vote) had raised the tone of political life. The evidence collected by Suffragists and Anti-Suffragists from the States of U.S.A. where women are enfranchised confirms this statement. The recent discussion in the Victorian Parliament which preceded the passing of the Act for the raising of the age of consent to eighteen may be contrasted for its dignity and sympathetic comprehension of the question with discussions upon a similar topic in man-elected Parliaments, discussions which resulted in no remedial legislation. Miss Ackermann, far from flatly contradicting me, is entirely in accord with me, for she speaks of the honesty of Commonwealth politicians, and their freedom from corruption. She states that they abuse one another; so do man-elected M.P.'s at Westminster. That Australia lacks a leader—a statesman; so does every country upon the face of the globe at present. I never claimed for the members of the Federal Parliament extraordinary intellectual powers; but I said that women voted for men of high moral character, and corruption had to hide its head in lands enjoying Female Franchise. This assertion is fully borne out by all authorities upon the subject.

Attempts have been made to secure an equal standard of morality for both sexes in the Divorce Acts for New Zealand

and Western Australia, in the raising of the age of consent in all States except Queensland, and in the recent Act in Victoria which raised this age to eighteen (December, 1913), in the registering of the illegitimate child in the name of its father in New Zealand. The judges and magistrates, as interpreters of the law, are uniformly impartial upon sex questions, and the wronged woman is certain of justice in the Law Courts. "We are governed not primarily by laws, but by public opinion," said Sydney Smith; and where women count, the public opinion is not merely of man's manufacture.

With regard to the economic position of women, neither my critic nor Miss Ackerman appears to have heard of the famous Renmark judgment (1912), which gave equal pay for equal work to the fruit-growers, whether they were men or women; nor of Justice Cussen's original decision, 1913, as to the salaries of typists; nor of the Shop Act of Victoria, which regulates the wages of men and women over twenty-three, giving equal pay for equal work. In Western Australia, bar-men and barmaids are alike paid 65s. per week. A minimum wage of 16s. for women workers has been fixed by the Wages Board throughout the Commonwealth, and I found on visiting shops and factories that only a few less skilled workers continued at this wage. With regard to the hours of work, the woman's work, as the man's, is limited to eight hours, and overtime is paid at one and a half times the ordinary rate. The Federal Public Service Bill of 1903 removed the Customs and Postal Departments from the control of the States to that of the Commonwealth. The women voters frustrated an attempt to perpetuate the injustice of the old régime under which women civil servants received less than half the salaries paid to the men for doing the same work. The Bill of 1903, in the amended form, upon which the women insisted, established the principle of equal pay for equal work, irrespective of sex, throughout the Commonwealth public service. In the State of New South Wales the minimum pay for a woman in the Civil Service is £120 per annum.

Female workers in New Zealand in shops, factories, etc., have a minimum wage of 25s. per week.

The following table shows the difference between the rate of wages paid to women workers in some occupations in Victoria before and after they obtained the Federal or the State Vote:—

Date.	Occupation.	Number.	Average weekly wage. s. d.
1897.—	Females in dress and mantle trade	4,164	8 8
	Females in shirt trade	435	12 3
1911.—	Females in dress and mantle trade	3,490	25 11
	Females in shirt trade	318	23 8
	Females in underclothing trade	826	23 8

Board and lodging are not more expensive in Australia than in England, as I was more comfortably boarded in each one of the States in 1913 for from 25s. to 30s. a week than I can be in England. Many girls are housed and fed for from 12s. to 14s. a week, and are really much better catered for at that price than they could be in these islands. In 1909 it was recognised by the Federal Parliament that women, who always have to combine a certain amount of domestic work with their industrial labours, are worn out by the double strain at an earlier age than men, who have no such responsibility; and therefore an Act was passed in 1909 enabling them to receive their Old-Age Pensions at sixty instead of sixty-five years of age. These pensions are 10s. per week.

Government teachers are exceedingly well paid, and the case Miss Ackerman quotes of a teacher up country who received only £80 a year and two rooms rent free is an exceptional one. Even in this case, as there were only sixteen pupils, the work cannot have been very hard, and the salary compares very favourably with that of some English State school teachers, who receive from £25 to £40 a year without lodging being provided. Moreover, the position at these up-country schools in Australia is often given to test the capacity of the teacher, and merely as a temporary post. If she shows energy and teaching power, she is, as a rule, promptly promoted to better-paid and more congenial work. When education comes under the control of the Federal Government, of course, equal pay for equal work will be the rule (see Act of 1903). I stated in my last article that great progress was being made towards securing the economic equality of men and women, and the action of the Liberal women of Australia last November (1913) is another

proof of this. These ladies have made the demand for equal pay for equal work an important plank in their platform, and as the securing of the economic equality of men and women has long been one of the chief aims of the Labour women, it will not be long before this principle is practically in force in the State as well as the Commonwealth. On the 15th December, 1913, at the Conference of Australian Public Servants, Mr. Billingham, Inspector of Factories, Victoria, proposed that "women should be eligible for *all* the branches of the public service." The proposal was carried, to embrace both Commonwealth and State. As there were seventy men delegates and only two women, the passing of this resolution is a tribute to the chivalry, that is increased and not destroyed in lands where women are admitted to full citizenship.

My statement that "the large number of occupations open to women (in Australia) prevents the great pressure of competition in any one of them" is an obvious economic truth which applies to small communities as well as large ones; for in the former there is naturally less work to be done, and there are fewer posts, as well as fewer persons to fill them. Indeed, in a working community such as is found in Australia, where there is a very small leisured class, the competition in the teaching profession was exceedingly keen until other avenues of work were opened up for educated women.

My critic carefully and wisely (for the sake of his argument) avoids entering upon the question of the rapid decline of infant mortality in Australasia. Miss Ackerman is, however, fully in accord with me upon the subject of the Australian mother, and my position as the head of a large school in Sydney for so many years brought me into contact with hundreds of these. In Australasia the most indefatigable and tender mothers are to be found. Nor, as is frequently stated, is the birth-rate steadily decreasing, although from the lack of domestic help, as in this country, the mother is frequently overworked in the home. The birth-rate in Australia has risen from 25.29 per thousand in 1903 to 28.65 per thousand in 1912; and though there has been a slight fall in the birth-rate in New Zealand to 26.48 per thousand, it is still considerably higher there than in Great Britain. The rate of infant mortality is much lower in Australasia since women have had the vote. In Australia in 1901 it was 103 per thousand. In 1911 it was 68 per thousand. In New Zealand it had been reduced to 51 per thousand in 1912.

The children that are thus saved from an early death by maternity homes, and maternity grants, efficient nurses (Plunket Nurses), systematic education of girls in mothercraft, and by Acts to ensure a pure milk supply, are not sickly, as is shown by the official report issued by the Department for Defence. The Act of Universal Training for Military Defence insists that all boys between the ages of thirteen and fourteen must go into training. Of about 100,000 who presented themselves, only about 4,000 were rejected. "It is doubtful if any other country could clear so large a percentage of physically sound lads between the ages of thirteen and fourteen," says Miss Ackerman.

In conclusion, I should beg my critic no longer to content himself with second-hand information—nor with statistics of 1910. If four years can pass in Great Britain without any improvement in social conditions, it is impossible for them to do so in Australasia, as the women are beginning to feel their responsibility and recognise their power.

MARGARET HODGE.

February 20th, 1914.

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- Wednesday, 18th March, 3.30 to 6 p.m. Club Tea (lecture 4.30). "Modern Rescue Work in Relation to the Woman Movement." Mrs. NOTT-BOWER. Hostess: Miss Tite.
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