

two above were the most contentious, was put to the Assembly, and the Bill was thrown out by 54 votes against 26 "amidst the applause of the orthodox." We, not being M.L.A.'s, and possessing the "illogical" mind of woman, find this a very amazing proceeding: how a body of persons can pass a resolution one day, and throw it out the next is not easy to understand.—*Shri Dharma.*

ITALY.

The Administrative Vote Granted to Italian Women.

AT last, after sixty years of work and propaganda, the right of Italian women to the vote has been recognised through the goodwill of Signor Mussolini, who has kept faith with the women's movement. At present we have to be content with the administrative vote, limited to women who have reached the age of 25 years, who have a certain standard of education, who pay a certain amount in taxes, who have received war decorations, or who are the mothers or widows of soldiers killed in war. The final step in passing the Bill will be taken shortly, as it still awaits the approval of the Senate. We hope that this body will be in favour, and will not bring in any further restrictions. We are continuing to work in order to obtain further concessions. In the meanwhile we wish to express to the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, on behalf of all the Italian groups, our gratitude for the support it has given us in our work and for all it has done on behalf of unenfranchised women.

PAOLA BENEDETTINI ALFERAZZI,

Secretary of the Federazione pro Suffragio.

Rome, May 16.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

A banquet was given by the Newfoundland Woman Suffrage League to celebrate the passing of the Woman Suffrage Bill. At this banquet a League of Woman Voters was inaugurated to take the place of the existing Suffrage League, which it is hoped will receive the support of women all over the island. The League is to be non-party and is pledged to support the interests of women and children. The need for compulsory education, better poor and health laws, etc., were among the topics discussed.

ROUMANIA.

MME. Maltopolu has sent a brief account of a meeting held in Bucarest on May 6 to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the first feminist meeting organised by Mme. de Ruess Jancoulesco, who is president of the League for the Rights and Duties of Women. The large hall of the Carol Foundation was too small to hold all the people who came to acclaim and congratulate Mme. Jancoulesco as the apostle of the feminist movement in Roumania—a movement fraught with tremendous difficulties. The speakers included Mme. Sadoveanu, who spoke on behalf of the Association for the Civil and Political Emancipation of Women, and Mme. de Ruess Jancoulesco answered from amidst a mass of beautiful flowers presented to her by one of the peasant women, for whom she has done so much.

SOUTH AFRICA.

The Labour Party and Women's Suffrage, 1925.

DURING the short session of the new Parliament which followed immediately upon the Election of 1924, the House Committee was reconstituted. The two Labour Ministers had been approached by the President of the Women's Enfranchisement Association of the Union and requested to introduce a Bill to enfranchise women; they both declined, however, saying that the Cabinet were divided on this question. As there was no hope at all of a Government Bill, Mr. Mullineux was asked by the House Committee and representatives of the W.E.A.U. to introduce a private Bill to enfranchise women. This he agreed to do, and the

matter was left in his hands. When the session of 1925 opened, a new situation arose. The Government introduced an Electoral Bill, and the Speaker's ruling was, as on former occasions, that two Bills on the same subject could not be concurrently before the House. The Government measure, of course, would have taken precedence of a private Bill. It became necessary, therefore, to reconsider the situation. The House Committee met with the representative of the W.E.A.U. and decided, in view of the Speaker's ruling, to drop the private Bill and introduce a suffrage amendment to the Electoral Bill. Mr. Mullineux agreed to be responsible for introducing this amendment. In support of this policy a large deputation, representing 20,000 organised women, waited upon the Prime Minister. It was a matter for great regret that the leading Labour women, Mrs. Creswell and Mrs. Boydell, refused to take part in this. Some weeks later, Mr. Mullineux, on behalf of the Labour Caucus, announced that he would not be able to introduce the amendment, and that the Labour Party would not support it, because the Minister of the Interior did not wish his Electoral Bill complicated by such an amendment. The Labour Party say they feel bound to support the Electoral Bill and assist the Minister in every way to secure its passage. In view of these facts a member of the South African Party has been approached and asked to take charge of the amendment, which he has agreed to do. As a result of the attitude adopted by the party, there is little hope of the amendment being carried, but it is considered essential that the new Parliament should have an opportunity of affirming the principle of women's suffrage.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

FOUR large gatherings of women in the last month, bringing together representatives from virtually every country in the world, stand out as impressive testimonials to the march of progress women have made in the last century.

For the first of these gatherings—the sixth annual Convention of the National League of Women Voters, in Richmond, Va.—women came from all parts of the United States for a serious six-day programme devoted to consideration of the principal subjects of political interest to women. It was the largest Convention the League ever had, and its deliberations were the most carefully considered in the history of the League. To League members and the many special visitors who thronged Richmond for their Convention in the South, the meetings had a deep significance in marking the first five years of what might be truly called "pioneer League work." To those who believed, back in 1920, that, with suffrage won, there was no need for a League of Women Voters, and, in fact, women should confine their political views to work within the parties, there is but one answer: "Consider the five years' achievements of the League." The test has been made, and in the words of Miss Belle Sherwin, president of the League, "the morrow is assured."

Five years of suffrage, to judge by the convincing and scholarly way in which women have made use of the ballot, was admirably reflected in Convention spirit and action. Basking in the presence of such leaders in the field of suffrage, social welfare, and better government, as Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, Miss Julia C. Lathrop, and Mrs. Maud Wood Park, the Convention expressed a new spirit, a spirit which will "keep on," ever mindful of Miss Lathrop's comforting words that "Democracy moves slowly and painfully, but it moves forward." There were meetings devoted to international peace, public welfare in government, efficiency in government, an afternoon lesson in practical politics given by women in public affairs in the United States, and an evening with "Women in Public Affairs in Other Countries," when women from England, Servia, Italy, the Philippines, and Brazil joined with Mrs. Catt in speaking of the movement for woman's political advancement the world over.

But of the gala events there is one that stands out as the banner occasion. To say it was a finance luncheon stirs up visions of a stiff technical programme, but never

in the history of women's Conventions has a finance gathering been made as "gala" as this one arranged by Miss Katharine Ludington, the League's treasurer. There was a scenario, the guessing of a cross-word puzzle, and then an hour of spirited pledging with over \$83,000 promised for the 1925-26 budget. To be sure there were plenty of pledges, but Lady Astor's cablegram pledging \$1,000.00 provoked special interest and gratitude, and before the afternoon was over even Lady Astor's cablegram was sold by enterprising finance directors for \$35,001.

The presence of Mrs. Corbett Ashby for three days was a stimulating experience to her many admirers in League gatherings. She had an honour place on the platform during all business sessions, but made her only address on the night of the banquet. Her greetings as a president of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, from the "other thirty-nine members of the Alliance to the American auxiliary—the League," were warmly received.

Three-quarters of a century ago a group of women with a common object shocked the world by announcing they believed in suffrage for women. Many scores of years have rolled by, and the struggle is won; but to those who have had a part in such an epoch-making change of affairs, there is nothing quite so exhilarating as "a day of looking backwards." And so, under the able leadership of Mrs. Catt, the National American Woman Suffrage Association met in Washington on April 23 to celebrate the rewards of "its continuous struggle for political freedom." Members of the League, including the board of directors, made up a large part of the distinguished throng which greeted Mrs. Catt and her Executive Council. It was a happy occasion, as Mrs. Ida Husted Harper, Mrs. Harriet Taylor Upton, Miss Mary Garrett Hay, and Mrs. Maud Wood Park, and finally Mrs. Catt called to mind interesting experiences in the old suffrage campaign. There was, too, a tinge of sadness as tributes were paid to the gallant and devoted Susan B. Anthony, Lucretia Mott, Harriet Cady Stanton, and Dr. Anna Howard Shaw.

The board of directors of the Suffrage Association will continue to be in existence until certain bequests amounting to about \$30,000 made to the old association and now held up by legal entanglements, are granted.

And now the third gathering of international importance. The All-American Association for the Advancement of Women met in Washington, late in April, to promote the work in which South American women joined hands with North American women at the first Pan-American Conference of Women called in 1922. Again Mrs. Catt proved herself to be an astute leader.

An important development was the change in aims of the organisation to include the promotion of education among all women, and the raising of the standard of education among women, work for the welfare of women and children, insurance of the civil rights of women, and stimulation of "friendship and mutual understanding between the two Americas, with the aim of establishing justice and maintaining permanent peace in the Western Hemisphere." An important resolution adopted called upon the Pan-American Union to "urge all American nations to promote education through the establishment of more schools, improvement of standards, and the enactment and enforcement of compulsory education regulations."

The Association hereafter will be known as the Inter-American Union of Women, and Miss Bertha Lutz, of Brazil, who has been vice-president for South America for the last three years, was elected president. Mrs. Catt will remain as honorary president, and Miss Belle Sherwin, president of the National League of Women Voters, was elected vice-president for North America; Senora Estes Niera de Calvo, of Panama, vice-president at large; Senora Amanda Labaroa, vice-president for South America; and Senora Casal de Quiros, vice-president for Central America. Brazil was selected as the place for the next meeting.

At the time of writing, the seventh quinquennial of the International Council of Women is just getting under way in Washington. Under the leadership of the Marchioness of Aberdeen, the Council bids fair to hold

sway in the capital city for nearly two weeks, and important issues of international importance will command the attention of leading women from forty nations.

In a statement on the day of arrival of the foreign delegates, Mrs. Philip North Moore, president of the National Council of Women of the United States, and vice-president of the international body, welcomed Council delegates "back home," for it was in Washington in 1888 that the Council was formed. Lady Aberdeen was elected its president in Chicago in 1893, when the Council was still in its swaddling clothes.

ANNE WILLIAMS.



MISS BELLE SHERWIN, U.S.A.,
President: National League of Women Voters.

THE BAHAMAS.

IT is of interest to record that on the 30th of April, 1925, the question of extending the Parliamentary franchise to women was first brought before the Bahamas Legislature. There was no serious attempt to pass a measure through the House, but the senior member for Exuma, who has just visited Bermuda, where a Woman Suffrage Bill has only recently been rejected by the House, no doubt conceived the idea that the time had come for the matter to be discussed here, and gave the House the opportunity by moving for the appointment of a select committee to consider the question. He found some support, but a majority of the House by a silent vote rejected the motion. No arguments were brought against it, which showed that members either did not take the motion seriously or were not prepared to go into the merits of the question. It is unlikely, however, that the matter will rest there, for having once been opened it will not take much to make it a subject for serious discussion.

It is not without interest to note that while the women of the Mother Country and some of the Dominions have exercised the franchise for a number of years, it is only within the last few weeks that it has been extended to the women of Newfoundland—the smallest dominion and oldest colony in the Empire. In the next oldest colony, Bermuda, from which the Bahamas were colonised by men who brought with them the germ of representative institutions, a Bill extending to women the laws now applicable to men with regard to Parliamentary, municipal, and parochial rights, privileges, and franchises was rejected a few weeks ago after a campaign conducted with much zeal and earnestness by the women of that colony. It is fitting, therefore, that the Bahamas should be next in line, and it is remarkable that the