

# **Reports to the first International Conference of Socialist Women**

**in Stuttgart on saturday 17. August 1907, at 9 a. m.  
in the Liederhalle.**

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## **Report of the Social Democratic Women of Germany to the International Conference of Socialist Women and the International Socialist Congress in Stuttgart 1907.**

The socialist women's movement of Germany is fully persuaded that the woman's question only forms a part of the social question, and can only be solved with the abolition of the capitalist and the inauguration of the socialist system. The realization of the demands of the champions of woman's rights will not even settle the question for the bourgeois women because it cannot prevent new sources of antagonism and conflict arising in place of the old antagonisms between men and women in the bourgeois classes. Still less does it assure to the women of the working class who form the great majority of the people their complete social and human emancipation.

As a worker the proletariat woman suffers most, not from the privileged position of the male sex, but from the exploitation and power of the capitalist classes; an exploitation and a power which have their roots in the nature of capitalism. Whether she delivers her tribute as a wage slave direct to the capitalist and daily experiences in her own person the weight of capitalist exploitation, or whether she, as wife feels the burden of exploitation to which her husband must submit, the position which is created for the working class through the capitalist system is always that which has the decisive influence on their happiness or misery. And this situation deprives them of the possibility of a free and harmonious development and exercise of the gifts of a body and soul which nature has bestowed on them. The proletarian woman, who desires social and human freedom must consequently fight against cause of her position the against the capitalist system.

The immediate aim of this, her struggle, is the improvement of the present through the setting of limits to the capitalist exploitation of the proletariat in general, but specially against the exploi-

tation of the proletariat women, because in the person of the mother the child is in greater degree injured than through the father and thus not only the present generation but also the coming generation and the future of the class are brought in question. And the fight for labour protection and the right of the workers under the capitalist system have besides that an importance which reaches far over the present into the future. In that it raises the masses in the economic, physical, intellectual and moral sense of the word, it raises their power and ability to fight for their aim, the abolition of the bourgeois class rule and the capitalist system. The means to that is the conquest of political power by the proletariat.

The proletariat woman has an equal interest with the men in forcing reforms from the capitalist society and eventually abolishing it. She suffers just as the man of her class, nay, not seldom, even more bitterly than he from the evils which are the inevitable result of capitalism.

Only through the struggle of all the exploited, without distinction of sex, can she win her full humanity. She must consequently strive to win her emancipation fight in the great historical fight which is being fought by exploited labour against the capitalist exploiter. The necessary condition of success in this struggle is that the proletariat should awake to class consciousness and without distinction of employment, Sex, nation or race come together guided by one idea and one will, viz the attainment of the socialist goal.

But in order to fight the fight of their class against capitalism without hindrance and with all energy the proletariat woman is specially in need of the recognition of her social and political right as woman. The complete recognition of the equal rights of men and women is not for her as it is for the bourgeois woman the aim of her endeavours. It is for her only a means to an end viz to fight and destroy the capitalist system. For her no reform of the present society in favour of the female Sex can suffice, she must demand the revolution of the bourgeois system, which together with the social chains of the proletariat, of the bourgeois system, at the same time breaks the hardest of her own chains, which with the setting up of the socialist society brings to her in common with all humanity the conditions of a complete human existence. In harmony with these views the Socialist Women's movement of Germany looks on it as their most important duty to bring Socialism to the female proletariat, to stir up and educate the women of the working classes in town and country, to band them together and to lead them as convinced Socialists to fight against the capitalist order of society. They consequently continually guide their endeavours to enrolling larger numbers and ever and ever better

educated proletariat women as fellow fighters of the revolutionary Labour movement. All those duties which must always fall to the various branches of the socialist labour movement they regard as their duty, all questions which move its external and inner life are questions which excite their interest and activity.

What they look on as their special duty is to find ways and means to bring these duties and questions home to the understanding of the mass of the proletariat women and to educate them to conscious work on them. In short, the Socialist Women's movement of Germany is in its innermost being only a part of the general socialist labour movement. In their own interest while maintaining in the most thorough community of aims and methods (with the Labour movement) and remaining continually in feeling with it they pursue their own work in their own special fields viz the enlightenment and organization of the female proletariat for the class war, they take however a part in the general labour movement. From what has been said farther above it is clear that the German women comrades with the same energy and earnestness with which they work for reforms in favour of the proletariat also work for reforms which serve the cause of the emancipation of the female Sex. In the centre of such demands is naturally the demand for the complete recognition of the political equality of the sexes which finds its expression in a right of forming associations and holding meetings without hindrance and in the active and passive suffrage for women.

Our Socialist Women's movement has always from the very beginning fought with all its might for the fullest rights of citizenship for the entire female Sex. It has in this respect left the German Bourgeois Women's movement far behind, which fights today neither united and solid, nor with full strength even for the Woman's vote as such, to say nothing of the universal Woman's Suffrage, less than this not even the Radical wing of the „Woman's Rights“ movement has taken adult suffrage in its programme.

Their principles determine the attitude of women comrades as well to the revolutionary Labour movement as to the Bourgeois Woman's movement. The Proletariat Women are bound to the Proletariat men by the bonds of a most complete solidarity of interests, they are separated from the bourgeois women by an insuperable barrier of opposing class interests and the respective position of the two classes. Just as the socialist Woman's movement on the one hand is joined in consequence through the community of aim and methods with the revolutionary labour movement, so is it sharply divided off on the other side from the bourgeois woman's movement. The latter is an outspoken bour-

geois reform movement which certainly would like to reform capitalist society in favour of the female sex but takes very good care not to endanger the power of exploitation and the ruling position enjoyed by the propertied classes. The reforms for which they aim can in consequence abolish neither the economic nor the social and political oppression of the vast majority of the female sex by the propertied and possessing classes. The Socialist Woman's movement on the other hand forms a part of the proletariat revolutionary movement. Its aim is the social revolution, suppression of bourgeois society even the recognition of the equality of the sexes as well as other reforms demanded by them as well as the bourgeois Woman's movement, they desire as a means to the end that they may fight the capitalist system and uproot it, while the bourgeois women want to support and maintain it. Now it might be thought possible that in spite of that, in the struggle for the reforms which come here into account a cooperation for special purposes might be possible between the bourgeois and the socialist woman's movement, that the two might march in separate columns and get side by side. But that is made impossible by the half and half nature of the demands put forward by the woman's movement and the weakness with which they defend them. Such a cooperation would only be possible at the price that the socialist women's movement should go backwards instead of forwards that they should reduce their demands and deprive their representatives of the revolutionary force and decision which the proletariat class struggle confers on them. The women comrades reject a proposal of that kind most decidedly. They think, feel and act as convinced social-democratic women and not as women.

The Social Democratic Party and the free trade unions which take their stand on the class war have opened their ranks to women and accept them as fully qualified members and fellow fighters. Scarcely had the socialist law fallen than the free trade unions carried through an alteration of their statutes which made it possible for working women of the individual trades to unite with the male co-workers in the same branch. The General Commission of the Trade Unions as well as the individual Trade Societies have spared neither trouble nor sacrifice to enlighten the working women on their interests and to organise them. Apart from the agitation in speech conversation and writing which they support for this purpose, the trade unions have special regard to the interests of the women in the constitution of their various funds for the support of their members. The General Commission has set up in Berlin a woman secretaryship which is occupied by a woman comrade with a fixed salary and a secure position which does

most valuable work. The Social Democratic Party has luckily granted to women in its Organisation Statutes equal rights of membership. And was even more difficult for them than the trade unions to enroll the women. The state of the law in most of the German Federal States, and especially the greatest of them, Prussia, expressly forbids the women to form political unions or to be members of such unions. Practice and continual warfare with the authorities has nevertheless shewn us how to find forms to allow women if not to join the local organizations at least to belong to the party as members and as such to take an equal part in its decisions and to cooperate in its work. The Party Executive and also the individual party organizations have a special effort to promote the socialist women's movement in its internal and external development. The comrades have to thank the party for the organ which they have enjoyed for 16 years, with the aid of their moral and material support they were able to build up the system of confidential agents at whose head stands a paid agent for the whole of Germany.

Because the practice shewed that despite all inner unity with the general socialist movement our woman's movement needs, in order to fulfil its task with success, its own special organs and a certain independence and freedom of movement. The reason is not only to be looked for in the reactionary legislation in the greater part of the German Empire but also in the special character of the work which fell to the women comrades. Were they to bring socialism to the mass of the working women, they were obliged to take stock of their political backwardness, their mental peculiarities, their two fold burden of duty in the home and in the factory, in short all the special factors of their existence, their work their thought and feeling. Accordingly they had to choose quite other methods and look for other points of contact than the men comrades in their work of enlightenment and organization among the male proletariat. The law of the necessary division of labour and other reasons of a more practical character brought it about that despite the fixed nature of their membership of the general movement the socialist women as far as their organization and work is concerned yet enjoy a certain independence and possess their own organs.

The political organization of the proletariat women of Germany has been most materially influenced by the reactionary laws on public meetings and the right of association and still suffers from the same. In Germany as we have already said there is no unified right of association and meeting for women to say nothing of a „free“ law. In Wurtemberg, Hessen, Hamburg, Bremen, Lübeck, the kingdom of Saxony, Baden, Oldenburg and Weimar-Eisenach,

the women are allowed by law to found political associations and join such as members. This right is taken good advantage of by comrades. The women who are won in these states for the party join the organization of the men. In other German states the women are not allowed this right. In the largest of the German States Prussia, as well as in Bavaria, Anhalt, Brunswick, Reuss older and younger line, Lippe etc., women dare not join the political associations. Commissions in these States consisting of 5 or 7 women comrades have often been declared by the Public Prosecutor to be Associations and punished accordingly. A way out of this difficulty was found in the appointment of individual women comrades as confidential agents to carry on the agitation. That at first was only however done in a few cases.

Not till after the Congress of Gotha 1896 where comrade Zetkin read a paper dealing from the standpoint of our principles with the question of the Essence and Aims of the socialist woman's movement and shewed the necessity of systematic agitation among the female proletariat did the congress recommend to the comrades „In all places so far as possible confidential agents for women should be elected in public meeting. The duty of such agents must be to enlighten the women in political and trade union matters, to rouse and strengthen their class consciousness, and to agitate with these aims in view.“

The system of confidential agents has been a success. Comrades male and female took great pains to find in various localities suitable women for the job. A centralization of these agents for the entire Empire was set up in 1900 and a central agency was appointed. This agent has got the duty to work with a view of carrying on a united and vigorous agitation among the women. She has the special task to open the way for a systematic work of agitation and organization of all kinds by woman comrades in such localities where the women have not yet been aroused to class consciousness and remain without understanding for the emancipation of their sex and class. She has further to arrange that the fight for those demands which at the moment either for the proletariat in general or the women proletariat in particular have been forced into the foreground shall be unitary in character.

Till the year 1904 the work was done by the central office. The extension however which had been made by agitation and organization made it necessary that from then on the agent should give her full time to the work. Since that year the agent has been paid. In 1906 in consequence of increased work she got an assistant with whom she works in the same office. The number of agents in the service of the socialist women's movement in the various parts of Germany amounts to 407.

The number of women which are organized in common with the men amounts to 10500. In these places the women's agents are usually at the same time members of the executive committee of the Socialdemocratic Union. They consult the comrades and develop in agreement with them the necessary agitation for the enlightenment of the indifferent female proletariat.

The Congress at Jena in 1905 added to the organization Statutes of the Party a clause to enable the confidential agent to take voluntary contributions from women in return for special stamps issued by the association. In Prussia as in other states where women are not allowed to organize a way is thus opened to them to testify their membership of the Social-Democratic-Party. In 97 places 8751 women comrades have given voluntary contributions in the short period which has elapsed since the novelty was introduced — a great Success.

The number of the unpolitical educational unions has continually increased. Their number now amounts to a membership of 10302. That is so much the more remarkable because the authorities were most hostile to these. In Rhineland and Westphalia the women were expelled without any legal right, association meetings were dissolved, members of the executive were prosecuted and associations were closed by order of the police. That all however did not prevent female comrades from finding ever and ever new ways to found and to propagate organizations. In the associations chiefly scientific lectures and artistic entertainments (concerts and recitations) are held; they encourage also a sisterly feeling between the members.

In addition to the political enlightenment the work of getting members into the unions has not been neglected. Women comrades who are active in speaking and in the work of organization work with equal energy for the political as for the trade union organization.

In the work of personal propaganda, attending meeting of workers belonging to particular shops and other kinds of trade union work they take a part, acquire new members, and educate the old. The number of women members of the 34 national trade unions numbered 1905 74411, it is now risen to over 100000, according to the last published figures.

In the year 1905 from the 74411 women members there are in the textile workers union 20598, tobacco workers 11422, metal workers 9097, bookbinders 6261, factory workers 5836, compositors assistants 3773, shoemakers 3092, laundry workers 2492, shop assistants 2372, tailors 2085, party cooks 1307, wood workers 1207, transport workers 1070, hatmakers 873, porcelain workers 775, municipal

workers 406, portfolio makers 299, glass workers 249, furrier 221, cigar sorters 206, saddlers 150, brewery workers 133, flower workers 115, paperhangers 90, Gilders 74, glovemakers 46, licensed victuallers assistants 41, painters 41, warehouse workers 35, bakers 31, office workers 27, umbrella makers 24, leather workers 12, butchers 3.

In the trade union women's Secretary's Office to which we have referred which has been in existence for some years in Berlin, there work women who have been for many years active in the trade union movement. Their work consists in carrying on the work of agitation among the women with all due consideration for the historical and economical hindrances which stand in the way. The trade papers and committees in which women men and work together, have educated the women members of the trade unions to the capable co-workers and fellow fighters.

The socialist woman's movement of Germany was not born ready made either as respects its theory nor its organization. Before the end of the sixties in the last century there were vigorous movements in Saxony to enrol the proletariat women in the organization of the working classes and their struggles. The efforts were crowned with success. These first attempts to win the women as co-workers in the movement must be ascribed to the insights and influence of the old International. It distinguished between the fruitful, creative historical tendency of the industrial work of women and the repulsive by form weighed down as it was by poverty and misery in which it was carried through under capitalism. The Knowledge of this fact had fixed when the german workers had only begun to come together as a class their attitude towards womans labour, and had shown them how necessary it was to call the women workers into the class war.

The endeavour to make of the women of the working people an organized force with a view of guarding their proletariat class interests took its first start in the Saxon Textile Industry. Its most prominent member was the International Trade Cooperative Society of the Factory and Hand Workers with an office in Crimmitschau. It was the result of no mere chance. It sprang from the historical conditions. The Saxon Textile Industry was in a transition stage from handwork to manufacturing on a large scale. The economic development had here prepared the soil on which the seed of the ideas sown by the International could rapidly sprout. The movement got up by the International among the workers of the „Erz-Gebirge“ saw only the female slaves of capitalism who like the men were being exploited and must be enrolled in the ranks of the proletariat fighters.



On 28 February 1869 comrade Motteler, who was among the most prominent leaders of this movement spoke out with as clearness and certainty which would be almost worthy of a programme on woman and her position in the home and public life. He said. „We demand for the women a freedom, that has its root in a rational order of things, to make her living and also to freely develop her capacities as well for the home life as for a public life. Not as domestic slaves confined to the kitchen and parlour, not deprived of all rights outside the home. The ideal of the emancipation of the female sex can only be realized in a socialist society of free workers. Hence comes the fight against the present social conditions, deeply branded as there are by the direst misery.“ In Crimmitschau on february 10 1869 in connection with the Spinner and weaver cooperative society was founded by 300 comrades an International Trades Cooperative Society of Factory and Hand Workers. To the committee which was set up there were added two women comrades, Frau Wilhelmina Weber and Frau Peschel. Out of the knowledge that the woman proletariat is at the same time in need of protection against capitalism and likewise confronts it as and opponent arose the endeavour to enrol te women in the International Trades Cooperative Society as equal and fully qualified members with similar rights and duties to the men. At the first General Meeting in Crimmitschau on 9, 10 and 11 july 1870 Wilhelm Stolle, one of our old guard, who remains a fighter even to day, was able to say that the organization had 6000 to 7000 members, including 1000 to 1200 women. According to our veteran Motteler a not inconsiderable number of women hat later joined the parent society and what is much more in a full knowledge of its aims and endeavours.

Under the weight of the economic and political consequences of the Franco German War and by reason of the unheard of persecutions of the government the International Trade Cooperative Society fell to pieces and with it the first attempt to range the women workers as an organized body in the ranks of the fighting forces of the proletariat. This attempt was quite free of any ingredients of the Bourgeois „Womans Rights“ theories.

The same cannot be said of the first Berlin attempts which pursceed the same aim. They also a began early in the sixties of last century. In the year 1869 was founded the first women's workers Union by proletariat women and led by a woman comrade who is still in our ranks comrade Stägemann. That was a sign that the Berlin Working women were awaking to class consciousness and were being forced to come together. The first steps of the socialist woman's movement were very laborious. They were

hindered not only by the difficulties which lay in the nature of the business, that is the difficulty of organizing the proletariat by reason of their two fold position as exploited and oppressed but also because of the special difficulties imposed by the Prussian Law of Association which is employed against them with the utmost severity and interpreted with all the ingenuity of legal casuistry. This reached its height under the Anti-Socialist Law. The authorities played false with the organizations which Berlin women comrades had started and dissolved them, they condemned their leaders, they harried their members, they tried to make impossible all and every form of public activity for the women comrades and to prevent them either holding or visiting public meetings. And yet ever and ever in the place of the organizations which had been broken up were new ones founded and the more did the numbers of the women comrades grow and at the same time also the knowledge of socialism among those who despite all hindrances took part in the struggles of their class. The leaders of the movement at that time—the women comrades Guillaume-Schack and Hofman, both of whom sprang from bourgeois and remained true to our colours in that hard time, the comrades Ihrer, Wabnitz and Stägeman with the nameless other women whose work was of the greatest help and though it remains unrecorded yet was of inestimable value, these all have rendered eminent service in the cause of the female proletariat and of Socialism. Of the actions undertaken by the young Berlin movement is especially worthy of notice that against the threatened introduction of a tax on sewing cottons which would have seriously affected the interests of the poor sewing women. In Hamburg, in Offenbach and other towns little by little there was arising a woman's socialist movement. As early as the seventies attempts had been made in various places to organize the sewing women, the women book binders, the laundresses, and other women workers, yet the unions were mostly local in character. Nevertheless it came about in the course of time that the various unions, got in touch with each other and especially with the Berlin women's socialist movement, which more and more took the lead intellectually, and became so far as the circumstances permitted the centre of the movement which was to make of the women proletariat co-fighters in the cause of the proletariat in his struggle for emancipation. But as we have already hinted the youthful movement was not quite clear on the principles of the socialist movement but was much under the influence of the champions of bourgeois woman's rights. That was evident especially in their attitude to the question of a legal protection of woman's labour. In the year 1890 the women comrades protested against a prohibition of woman's

work in such trades as were especially detrimental to the organism of the woman. And even up to the International Socialist Congress in Zurich 1893 prominent leaders of the women's socialist movement combatted all special protective legislation for women. An official break with the ideas of the champions of woman's rights, to whose influence that was due came first at the International Socialist Congress in Zurich 1893. As the representative of the German women comrades comrade Zetkin moved the following resolution which was accepted.

Considering

that the Bourgeois Woman's movement rejects all special legislation for the protection of women as an interference with the rights of woman and her equality with man,

that with that it ignores the character of our present day society which rests on the exploitation of the working class, women as well as men by the capitalist class,

and on the other fails to recognise the special role which has fallen to women through the differentiation of the sexes, namely their for the future so highly important role as mother of children, the International Congress of Zurich declares:

It is the duty of the Labour Representatives in all countries to demand with all their power the passing of the following legal measures for the efficient protection of women workers:

1. Introduction of a legal maximum eight hours day for women and a six hour day for girls under 18 years.

2. Fixing an uninterrupted repose once a week of 36 hours.

3. Prohibition of night Work.

4. Prohibition of woman's work in all employments which are detrimental to health.

5. Prohibition of work by women with child, two weeks before and four weeks after child birth.

6. Appointment of Women Factory Inspectors in sufficient numbers in all the Industries where women are employed.

7. Application of the above measures to all women who work in factories work shops, or shops, in the home industries or as agricultural women workers.

The movement has been above all educated on the principles of Socialism by the „Gleichheit“ (Equality) — the organ of the German Socialist Women — which was founded in 1892 thanks to the far sightedness and support of comrade Dietz and took the place of the „Woman Worker“ which comrade Ihrer had edited.

The „Gleichheit“ has made a study of the woman's movement in various directions starting out from and remaining consistent to the principles of the historical materialism. It has thus laid

down a foundation of principle for the socialist woman's movement and the lines its tactic should follow. For many years the „Gleichheit“ had only a very small circulation. Often enough derided when it appeared privately, it pursued the aim which it had set itself. The Editor Comrade Zetkin did not allow herself to be led away by the cry that the paper was too much above the peoples comprehension it ought to be brought down to a lower level. It was difficult to accustom women to serious reading. In the years when the influence of the „Gleichheit“ did not shew itself in outside successes, it educated in the theory of Socialism a staff of splendid women agitators in word and writing who had arisen from the ranks of the female proletariat and who now form the strength of our movement and are the guarantee of its farther development. To day the „Gleichheit“ has 70 000 subscribers in all parts of the Empire, especially many thousands in Catholic parts. The readers of the „Gleichheit“ must for the greater part be recognized as comrades. In January 1906 the size of the „Gleichheit“ was increased and its contents increased by a special column intended for lighter entertainment as well as by supplement in every alternate number for the children and in every other alternate number for the mothers and housewives. Of these two supplements the first has the duty to awake by means of poems, stories etc., in the children a sense of justice, a love of truth, freedom and their fellows and introduce them in the most suitable manner into the world of socialist feeling and thought. The success is attained that many thousands of children await this supplement with pleasure and read it eagerly. For mothers and housewives are given educational articles on Domestic Economy, Health, Education of children so that they may become more capable of educating their children in a socialist sense. The „Gleichheit“ always finally directs its energy to drawing contributors out of the ranks. No Party paper has had such a success in this respect as it. To many talents the opportunity is thus given of developing themselves and the number of contributors from the ranks of the female proletariat grows continually.

The theoretical clearness of the Socialist Woman's movement has brought it about that in the ranks of the leading women comrades the necessity of educating the mass of the women workers has long been advocated with zeal and indeed of making of the women workers not merely sentimental socialists but socialists with the understanding. The Socialist Woman's movement consequently makes a great point to make the women acquainted with the Socialist programme. For the purpose of theoretical education reading and discussion societies were started in about 120 places. In groups of 20 to 35 persons

the Social Democratic Programme is read and discussed. The leader of the discussion whether man or woman must understand how to bring the women through clear explanation and well put questions to a clear understanding and expression of their ideas. The success of the undertaking is gratifying. A great number of women has won through it knowledge and capacities which they were able to employ in meetings and public discussions.

In accordance with our principles the participation of women comrades in political life has always been lively. In all political actions undertaken by the proletariat the women take part. Both in entertainments got up by comrades in meetings, in the distribution of pamphlets as in the other necessary work the women comrades take their part. They fight alongside of comrades for freedom of meeting and association, for adult suffrage, for reform of education and school, for a proper labour protection, for provision for mothers and children. They fight especially against militaryism and the Colonial Policy and take a most lively part in the election fights. In short the women comrades take a part in all the action and work of the party, not least are they unceasingly active as speakers for it. Also in the educational movements of the fighting proletariat the women play an active part. Among the many thousand members of the „Free Dramatic Union“ certainly the half are women and otherwise the comrades crowd into all arrangements which are to serve for the improvement and deepening of the education.

In the trade union struggles also the women fight loyally side by side. As working women they stand at the side of their of their men fellow workers, they know full well that the reverse often happens, and that every victory of the common cause comes to the good of both. But still in other matters the women then their feeling of proletariat solidarity and duty. Thus during the Boycott which the organized tailors and tailoresses of Berlin decreed on certain businesses in Berlin who refused to comply with the demand to erect work shops, they stuck to their duty and avoided making their purchases from such firms. Thus a large number of big were compelled to recognize the claim of the organized tailors. During this years baker's strike in Berlin, which aimed at getting for the bakers assistants at least 13 free days and nights and to secure through the abolition of living in, the possibility for them to found a family of their own, the women helped actively. They got up in Greater Berlin 28 meetings and as speakers spoke for the demands of the Baker's assistants, collected money and aided at making the strike a success by means of the boycott. In cooperation with the trade unions the women comrades in many

places have founded committees which had for duty to tell the Factory Inspector of cases where employers broke the law. This institution has had the effect of getting rid of many abuses and helping the movement. The attention of women comrades has been much drawn to the exploitation of child labour. In various meetings they contended for a sufficient protection for children. In many towns Child protection committees were appointed which had for duty to denounce breaches of the law for the protection of children. Thus many a child ours health and life to the activity of the comrades.

Daring last year the social political Womens movement began to enlighten in systematic manner and organize a specially oppressed and exploited class of female wage slaves — the domestic servants. In 10 places there exist already organizations of the same, which have already 5000 members. The work of this association has abolished many a remnant of the mediaeval „Gesindeordnung“ to which the domestic servants are the subject, and has made for them better conditions of life and service.

In short the Socialist Woman's movement has endeavoured to represent the interests of all degrees of the exploited with all energy and to draw new armies of proletariat women and girls into the war for emancipation. They use all the evils to which the working women are exposed to shew the class antagonisms and the necessity of class consciousness. They point to the need for air, light, leisure, recreation knowledge education, the enjoyment of nature and art, for family happiness and the rights of citizens which has been awakened in the bosom of the working woman and call them to fight for a complete humanity. And while they thus bring to the proletariat class struggles of today new and educated co-fighters they recruit also efficient troops for the future. They collect and educate a race of socialist mothers who educate the children who will take our places in the ranks and maintain the movement young and fresh, and bear the sons who grow up imbibing socialist principles and are useless as soldiers against the inner foe. Thus our socialist woman's movement makes breaches in the might of the capitalist classes and undermines the last and most powerful weapon of their class rule — the murderous militaryism. Thus they work according to their strength for the revolutionizing of the minds, for the building up of a socialist society of the future, in which men and women shall not tear out one another's eyes, but live and work in harmony together and for each other and for the common good. In such a society woman will attain her full and complete emancipation. Ottilie Baader.

## Report on the movement among the Austrian Working Women, sent in to the first International Conference of Socialist Women at Stuttgart.

The movement among the working women of our country is affiliated to the general labour movement.

We have no women's trade unions; even in the branches where 90 percent of the employés are women, and where the organizations contain more women than men, they are organized in common with the men.

At the end of 1906 42000 women were members of their unions; in 1905 there were only 28000. There is thens an increase of 33 percent in a year. These 42000 workwomen belong to the following branches:

Builders Assistants . . . . .	1733
Brewers and Cask Binders . . . . .	229
Book Binders . . . . .	1378
Printers and Lithographic Printers Assistants . . . . .	1087
Roof Workers . . . . .	3
Turners . . . . .	90
Iron and Metal Workers . . . . .	2079
Glass Workers (Tannwald) . . . . .	610
Gold Workers . . . . .	80
Girdle Makers and Bronze Workers . . . . .	536
Shop Assistants . . . . .	161
Transport Workers . . . . .	229
Glove Makers . . . . .	48
Home Workers . . . . .	1176
Wood Workers . . . . .	457
Hatmakers . . . . .	546
Waiters . . . . .	18
Cap Makers . . . . .	57
Agricultural and Forestry . . . . .	39
Leather Workers . . . . .	194
Leather fancy Ware Workers . . . . .	31
Paper Workers, Chemical and India Rabber . . . . .	3582
Porcelain Workers . . . . .	1391
Private officials . . . . .	367
Saddlers etc. . . . .	63
Ship loaders . . . . .	300
Umbrella Workers . . . . .	282
Tailors . . . . .	350
Shoe Makers . . . . .	506
Stone Workers . . . . .	5
Tobacco Workers . . . . .	4495
Textile Workers . . . . .	15455
Pottery Workers . . . . .	249
Newspaper Carriers . . . . .	704
Brick Makers . . . . .	9
Balers of Fancy Breads or Pasty Cooks . . . . .	175
Various . . . . .	226

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Total 42190

In all cases where any large member of women are organized, or where there is one amongst them sufficiently capable and willing, women are upon the committees of the organizations.

In the political movement as well the working women have the same rights as the men. In the political organizations the women, pursuant to § 30 of the loi concernande, cannot take a part. But as the Schwergewicht — weight of authority rests, not in the political organizations, but in the so-called „committee of roads and houses“, the women have the same opportunity of taking part as the men. The women comrades take up the duties of the Party; they distribute the journals and leaflets; they sit on district committees, and take part in conferences concerning the elections. The principal obstacles in our path are the lack of spare time of the women workers on the one hand, and prejudice on the other; and it is owing to these that our progress is far too slow. These evils, however, are the same in all countries where women are compelled to be workers, wives and mothers at the same time. The congresses of the Labour Party and of the Trade Unions has already considered the problem of the woman worker; and they have sought suitable means to overcome the indifference of the women proletarians, in order to get them to organize. The result of our efforts appears in the figures given above. We have also held two conferences for the German women working in Austria, dealing chiefly with questions of agitation and organization, and with the law which protect the rights of women. The first women's conference, in 1898, formed the Executive Committee of the Women of the Empire, which attempted to set on foot an agitation among the working women, to enlighten them, to increase their class-consciousness, and, upon occasion to organize meetings and demonstrations to make special demands for them. This Executive Committee had for its sphere of action the whole of German-speaking Austria, and received pecuniary assistance from the executive of the Party, from the Committee of the Trade Unions, and from the socialist organization of Lower Austria. Up to the present, the Executive Committee in question have had no other money.

The Executive Committee arranges conferences for political and trade union assemblies; it sends delegates also to trade union assemblies and congresses from branches where female work plays a part; and, learning from experience gained in agitation, it assists the workwomen as far as possible with advice. In cases of strike or lockout, when the workwomen are taking part, the Committee is prepared to encourage them to persevere.

The Executive Committee take part in all the political affairs of the Party. During the struggle for universal male suffrage,



the women comrades played a remarkable part by holding many women's meetings and organizing demonstrations in the streets. When the Party entered upon the General Strike, the Committee published a leaflet which was distributed among the Viennese work-women to the extent of 150 000 copies, since the General Strike was to be started at Vienna. When at last the right of universal suffrage for men was won, the work for the elections began. Our women comrades placed themselves at the disposition of the bureau for the agitation, and they worked.

The Executive Committee have always been effectively to the fore in questions of protest against the oppression and material disadvantage of the workers. At several meetings protest has been made against the mercenary fiscal policy adopted by the government. A special agitation was set on foot against the clearners of meat and the necessaries of life. The „Arbeiterinnen Zeitung“, the propagandist journal of the Austrian workers, upholds the actions of the Committee; and appears twice a month with a circulation of 11 000 copies. A woman belongs to the Executive Committee of the Party, and another to the Executive Committee of the united Trade Unions; and these comrades are at the same time members of the Executive Committee of the Women of the Empire, so that unity of action in propaganda is guaranteed. When the new „Reichsrat“ was elected on the question of Universal Manhood Suffrage, and the Socialist Section of the Deputies commenced its deliberations, it was decided, in obedience to the wishes of the people, to demand from the government the extension of the right to vote to women. A bill is in preparation to protect the interests of working women.

The Committee and the Austrian comrades in general will not fail to make their demands with the necessary firmness when parliament reassembles. The demand for political rights, especially those of voting and eligibility for election, will become louder in proportion as the excessive price of the necessaries of life becomes more and more severely felt. The government's intention of providing state insurance for old age and illhealth, but not for widows and orphans, will call forth vehement protestations from the women: and the demand for the franchise and the right of election for women will become louder than before.

It remains to be stated that the movement of the Austrian women workers is purely of a working-class and socialist nature. The 42 000 women members of the Trade Unions are as much our comrades as those belonging to the societies for the instruction of women and to the political organizations. The socialist journal Die „Arbeiterinnen-Zeitung“ is circulated for the most part among

the women members of trade unions. The victory of universal manhood suffrage and the successes of the first elections, which won us 87 representatives, have aroused enthusiasm and fighting spirit in the hearts of the women as well; and we hope and trust that next winter the movement among the working women will gain new strength; and that the women's organizations will make remarkable progress despite the reactionary laws against freedom of combination.

## **National Federation of Women Socialists of Belgium.**

The National Federation of Women Socialists of Belgium is affiliated to the Labour Party, and has for its aims the realization of the following programme: I. The Recognition of Woman as a human being and a member of society. II. The right to vote; eligibility for the legislative chambers, provincial and municipal councils, boards of conciliation and arbitration; and, in general, for all public office. III. The opening to women of all duties and professions, with equality of salary for equal services. IV. A minimum wage such as to grant a woman the power to lead a normal existence. V. Free and compulsory education up to the age of 16 years, the same curriculum being adopted for both sexes; and free admission to technical schools and to all higher educational institutions. VI. State maintenance of orphans up to the age of 18 years. VII. State support of all of either sex who have been invalidated by their work. VIII. The prevention of drunkenness and prostitution by the relief of misery; the prevention of war by the well-being of the workers; the fraternity of nations; and the institution of a tribunal of international arbitration.

To the federation belong; groups of Women Socialists, so-called mixed groups that is groups in which men and women are organized, trade unions, friendly societies, and groups for propaganda, for education and political clubs, so as to establish unanimity of purpose and thus secure the various points mentioned in the programme. It actually numbers about 8 groups with about 1000 members. Each year it organizes a Congress, and 3 times a year a general assembly. The Executive, consisting of 8 members is entrusted with the execution of the decisions of the Congress and assemblies. It publishes 2 monthly journals, one in French „La Femme Socialiste“, the other in Flemish „De Stern der Vrouw“. The Federation publishes tracts and brochures to meet the needs and requirements of the moment; and organizes meetings and conferences. The Women's Federation is represented at the

General Council of the Party and has a delegate to the Executive, another to the General Council, and a supplementary delegate, these being entrusted with the demands of the women to the Labour Party.

Considering the number of members attached to the Labour Party, it is distressing to state that our organization is very weak. This is due to the lack of women propagandists, and to apathy and ignorance.

At our last congress in December, it was decided that, in order to strengthen the organization and form new groups, the bureau of the Federation should communicate with the secretaries of the different districts and three times a year enquire into the moral condition of each group.

Since our journals were not thriving satisfactorily, it was decided that each group should pay an annual subscription and distribute the copies to its members.

At the extraordinary Congress, convened last June by the Labour Party, in view of the Stuttgart Congress. Citizeness Tillmanns presented a report on the conclusions of which had been Women's Suffrage formerly adopted by the Federation. The congress of the Party too agreed to it after discussion and voted unanimously the following resolution: „In view of the fact that women should know, in the interests of all, as well as their own, the laws which they obey, and should assist in the making of the same, this Congress decides: I. That the Labour Party commence an active propaganda throughout the country to convince men of the necessity and utility of female suffrage. II. That the affiliated groupes organize conferences and meetings on the subject, and dealing with the social education of women. III. To commence an immediate campaign for Women's Suffrage and their eligibility for boards of conciliation and arbitration, Labour bureaux, and municipal councils. IV. That the Party decide upon the proper moment to proclaim the right of legislative suffrage for women as stated on the programme: Universal Suffrage, pure and simple, without sex distinction. This resolution is to guide the attitude of the Party's delegates to the Stuttgart Congress. Comrade Van Langendouk proposed, that the reporter, Maria Tillmanns should represent the General Council of the Party at Stuttgart, the motion was carried.

At the annual Congress of the Labour Party, the Federation's Secretary protested at the indifference of the Party to the point of view of the women's organizations, resolutions of sympathy were passed; and the General Council for the next congress will report on the work done. We hope thus to strengthen existing groupes and to form new ones. We look forward to new members who

will sow the seeds of Socialism for and wide throughout the world, and demand the rights of women so long denied by the social system of to-day.

On behalf of the Federation

Maria Tillmanns, Secretary.

## **Report of the Socialdemocratic Women's Clubs in Holland.**

The first organizations of socialist women in Holland have been founded in the spring of the year 1905. Amsterdam gave the good example, and it was followed by the towns: Sheveningen, the Hague, Rotterdam, Dordrecht, Kampen, Middelborg, Delft and Leenwarden. Groningen and Zwolle have too founded Socialdemocratic Women's Clubs, but they have sent us no report whatever.

We have in Holland 11 clubs with a total membership of 515. As to the membership of the single clubs and other particulars you will find them in the statistical table we add. Seven of the mentioned clubs make compulsory for all their members without any exception to belong to the Socialdemocratic Labour Party. The women club of Kampen is not very severe in the application of this rule. I dare say that Leenwarden probably neither insists very rigorously on it. At least such is the impression we get, when reading that this club says „it is not our intention to admit exceptions“.

In 5 clubs the minimum contribution is of 5 cents (about 3 farthings). A month, besides of the contributions paid to the Party. At Kampen the members pay 1 cent a week, at Dordrecht 3 cents, in this last organization however the members get an annual subscription free of cost of the socialdemocratic womens' paper the „Proletarische Vrouw“ (the working class woman). The club in Rotterdam has not fixed any contribution at all for its members, the Socialdemocratic Federation supplying all the women club expenses. The Middelburg club has sprung off from a study club, all the members of the women's organization belong still to the same and they pay contributions only to it. In some places the local socialdemocratic organization or the S. D. Federation supports the women's club both morally and financially. This is the case in Rotterdam, Leenwarden and Dordrecht; in Amsterdam and Delft the support is only a financial one. In the Hague and

Sheveningen the women's S. D. club gets no support whatever, as to Kampen the S. D. organization is not able to give any financial help.

Our paper „De Proletarische Vrouw“ appears monthly, published by the club of Amsterdam, it has however not the circulation we should like it to have. The yearly subscription costs 50 cents, separate numeros are sold for 2 cents a copy. The subscription of this paper is not compulsory in one club, but nevertheless in Sheveningen, Leenwarden and Dordrecht all the members are subscribed. In Amsterdam the club members get the paper free of cost, while in the other clubs the members use to buy each single copy for 2 cents, and sometimes the same copy is read by several womens together.

In order that the „Proletarische Vrouw“, which has actually only 600 subscribers, might be able to do more propaganda, it must get a greater circulation. Probably the publication of the paper shall be assumed by the totality of the women's clubs.

The kind of propaganda made by our members among the working women is almost every where the same. They pay visits to proletarian homes, endeavouring to interest the women in items of special importance to them, they convoke public meetings and meetings to which non-organized women too are admitted; they distribute socialist pamphlets and other easy socialist writings.

The chief aim of all the women clubs is to make of their members conscious and active socialdemocrates. In Amsterdam and Kampen the club discussed therefore the socialdemocratic programm; in Amsterdam besides they studied the programm for communal policy. In several S. D. women clubs they are reading and discussing easy socialist writings. In the Amsterdam club women suffrage has been dealt with and more than once members of different trade-unions have lectured on trade unionism. The club of Amsterdam is particularly aiming to organize the working women in the trade-unions that already exist and to create new organizations for them.

We wish and trust, that our Party shall recognize very soon the great importance of the participation of the proletarian women in the movement of their class, and thus we hope that the Party shall support the socialdemocratic women organizations in the measure and in the way they want and deserve to be assisted.

With socialdemocratic greetings

M. Mensing, Secretary.

### Table of facts concerning Social

Name of town	Member- ship	Adherence to S. D. Party compulsory or otherwise	Minimum contribution	Character of assistance (moral or financial) from the local organi- zation or from the Federation of the Party
Amsterdam . . . .	155	compulsory	5 cents (8½ Pf.) 3 farthings per month	Financial assistance given by the local organization
Sheveningen . . .	26	compulsory	Dito	None
The Hague . . . .	40	compulsory	Dito	None
Rotterdam . . . .	106	compulsory	None	Moral and financial support is given by the federation
Dordrecht . . . .	36	compulsory	3 cents per week	Moral and financial assistance
Kampen . . . . .	9	Exceptions are admitted	1 cent per week	The local party or- ganization is too poor to support the womens' club
Middleburg . . . .	32	compulsory	None	As to the present no support
Delft . . . . .	31	compulsory	5 cents per week	If necessary organizations pay for propaganda
Leenwarden . . . .	10	Expected but not strictly compulsory	Dito	Pay part of proga- ganda expenses
Groningen* . . . .	60	—	—	—
Zwolle* . . . . .	8	—	—	—

\* Have sent no report.

## Democratic Women's Clubs in Holland.

Socialist women's monthly	Methods of propaganda for securing new members	Action taken by clubs to promote definite instruction in socialist principles
The club pays the annual subscription for all its members	Personal visits, public meetings, and special meetings which comrades are invited to bring sympathisers as guests	Study is made of the S. D. programme, of municipal governments from a S. D. standpoint, of womens suffrage and of Trade Unionism
All the members are subscribers	Personal visits and public meetings	Such instruction is given by the S. D. Party organisation; and the members of the women's club are urged to attend its meetings
The members are not able to subscribe annually; therefore they buy copies of each issue, which they read together	Personal visits and public meetings	S. D. leaflets are read and discussed, and attendance at S. D. meetings is encouraged
So far only some of the members are subscribers	Personal visits and public meetings	Meetings are held; and there is a library
The subscription is paid by the club	Personal visits, and meetings of the club to which members are unisted to bring sympathisers as guests	Evenings are devoted to lectures and to the reading and discussion of papers
Copies of each issue are bought by individual members for 2 cents	Personal visits and distribution of leaflets	Fortnightly lectures on the S. D. programme are delivered, and important questions, such as increase in the cost of living, are dealt with
Not compulsory the members however buy the paper as soon as it appears	Lectures are held in the „Samen Steeb“	Lectures are given, and evenings are set apart for and reading study
All members do not subscribe	Personal visits, lectures, and meetings to which sympathisers are invited as guests	Meetings of an educational character are held under the auspices of the club; and propaganda meetings of the S. D. Party are held
Is tacken-but it is not compulsory	Public meetings to which sympathisers are united	Reading is encouraged, and leaflets are distributed
—	—	—
—	—	—

## Report of the Sewing Women's Union in Amsterdam.

I beg to be allowed to give a short report to the first International Conference of Socialist Women of the present position and origin of the Amsterdam Sewing Women's Union.

In 1897 the Sewing Women's Union was founded by a few sewing women and a few bourgeois champions of Womens Rights who at the same time were friends of the cause of labour. The proletariat element however was predominant from the first and consequently the Bourgeois Women never were able to get any influence in our union. At the time of foundig about 150 members joined it which soon however rank to 30. The membership has always fluctuated in similar fashion: a phenomenon which appears to be a characteristic peculiarity of Womens Trade Unions. Our Union had for example 400 members before the General Strike, two months later it rounted only 65. Certainly at that time the mens trade unions experienced a great loss of members, because the government with their. Coercion Laws had temporarily paralyzed the labour movement. From march 1904 the membership rore continually, and in may 1906 the union again numbered 175 members. That was especially to a strike in a Workshop for men's „ready made“ clothes, which had ended successsfully. The newly won members were almost without exception women workers in the „ready made“ clothes branch. As the group of workers belonging to this branch continually rore we resolved to organize them in a special trade society. This was at onee joined by 158 members. After the a „ready made“ had separated from the sewing women the members of these last fell to 40.

Our parole was a reneved cry to take up the work and the result of our endeavours is that we now again have 80 members. With if even this number in no way corresponds to the numbers of the women workers in our trade, get our union can already shew good results. Apart from small advantages, for example recall of dismissals etc., it is especially due to our organization that the number of the Labour Inspektors has been increased. In consequence the Faktory Laws are more efficiently carried out. That fact is a valuable means of propaganda and has already for some time part brought as most welcome success. Also through the instrumentality of our fortnightly paper. „The Tailoresses and Sewing Woman's Messenger“ we often succeeded by shewing up scandals in sewing their abolition. From its foundation our union has taken part in the may demonstration and the suffrage demonstrations and for seven it has been joined to the Amsterdam Union of Executtives. The „ready made“ tailoresses who last year separated from the sewing women



have already won after a long fight a rise of wages amounting to 25 per cent. Their trade paper makes good progress. Also for as the rule applies. „Education is to be put before fighting.“

Our section of youthful workers (sewing women under 18 years) conforms that. This section serves not so much for the fight, as for the general work of education under the Trade Union. It is filled by the best spirit and the endeavour to propagate it with certainly be to the advantage of the trade union.

In conclusion i might say that we keep up our courage and have full reliance in the victory of our ideals. The report on that what we have done in our small and economically backward country will certainly not be up to that what will be reported from the movement in other countries. But we should not have attained even that had we not been roused to enthusiasm by the progress of our sisters or foreign countries and inspired with new courage to work on and march forwards.

The number and tho greatness of your victories, sisters will allways delight us.

C. Zaalberg, President of the Sewing Woman's Union.

## **Report of the Federation of Swiss Workmen's Societies.**

The Federation of Swiss workwomen's societies consisted, at the beginning of 1906, of the following 10 sections: The women's society and the Stauffacherinnenverein both at Basle; the women's societies at Berne, Hérisau, Schaffhouse, St. Galle, Wyl, Wintertour and Zurich; and a lecture and discussion society for young women Socialists also at Zurich. The St. Galle section originally belonged to the Federation, but drifted apart from it for a time. In May 1906 it rejoined the central organization. At the same time the society of working women at Berne, which had been somewhat backward, was considerably strengthened and reorganized. Since then, two more societies have joined the Federation: a new one at Bätjunzen near Berne, and a lecture and discussion society for Italian working women at Kreuzlingen: owing to the latter it became necessary to print the rules of the Federation in Italian. In French Switzerland the need for organization is also being felt, as is proved by the fact that the womens lecture society at Fribourg have joined the Federation.

In the Autumn of 1906 our comrade Citizeness Greifenberg (Augsbourg) exerted a favourable influence over the federal movement by an agitation campaign in Switzerland. In the various sections many of our men and women comrades organized ins-

tructive and encouraging conferences. The „Stauffacherinnenverein“ at Basle took part in various public demonstrations, as, for example, in that held in honour of the Russian revolutionaries who suffered death, in the May-day celebrations, and in the demonstration at the fête commemorating the battle of St. Jacob. At Eastern in 1906, the assembly of the delegates from the working women's Federation took place after the Congress of the Federation of Swiss Trade Unions; in addition to 15 delegates there took part representatives of the central committee at Wintertour, and also the factory inspectress from Basle. Comrade Furrer, a member of the Stauffacherinnenverein, was elected to the general committee of the Basle Universal Cooperative Society. — The working women's society at Schaffhouse introduced mutual benefit for mothers in child birth. The Section at St. Galle, in order to offer some inducement to their members, instituted a fund for the benefit of sick, to which each member contributes 60 centimes ( $6\frac{1}{4}$  d.) a month.

The working women's association at Wintertour instituted sewing and mending classes attended by over 40 comrades. The Basle and Zurich sections, the state of their finances being comparatively prosperous, were able to give pecuniary assistance to strikers. At the general assembly of the Federation that took place two years ago it was decided to publish an official organ, which made its first appearance on May 1st 1906, under the title „Die Vorkämpferin“. The new propagandist organ has met with much sympathy and has already attained a circulation of about 2000. The Zurich section decided upon „Die Vorkämpferin“ as its monthly; to it is in consequence sent round to all the members. The monthly subscription having been slightly increased to meet the cost. To this section also belongs the credit of having instituted an enquiry into the conditions of the women work in home industry and sweating.

The suggestion for the establishment of a central Sick Benefit Fund was rejected at Zurich early in 1907; but it was decided to use all efforts for the improvement of the scheme for state assurance in Switzerland.

As shewed by the treasurers report, the receipts of the Federation increased during 1906 to 950 francs 50 centimes (approximately 41 £ 12 sh); and the expenditure to 799 francs 90 centimes (38 £ 2 sh). The balance in hand was 642 francs 60 centimes (28 £ 2 sh).

## **Report of the Socialist Women's Committee of Paris.**

Comrades! We were sorry not to be able to attend the Mannheim Conference of Socialist Women, no step, having then been taken towards grouping the Socialist Women of France. Soon after this

Conference, however, one of the women belonging to the 13th Parisian Section of the Socialist Party having informed us of the results obtained in Germany and some other countries, we obtained from this Section permission to organize a local women's Commission. I should add that the 13th Section happens to be the one which, for several years has always had a number of women working with the men. There were at that time 14 women members for that particular arrondissement of Paris.

The first Women's Commission, consisting of these 14 women, set to work: its main object being to organize an active propaganda in order to increase the number of its members. We succeeded in getting several wives of comrades, hitherto outsiders, to join the Socialist Party.

Moreover, as there live in the arrondissement many women employed by the Assistance Publique (Poor Guardian Board) of Paris (controlling several hospitals and alms-houses, and the Magasin Central etc.), we organized a Public Conference, especially for the women. Comrade Paul Lafargue spoke on „The Working Woman“ and comrade Chaboseau-Napias on „The Conditions of Labour for the undiplomed Women Labourers of the Poor Guardian Board.“ Our meeting exceeded all hopes and we made many women converts.

Following on the strike of the workmen and workwomen at the Say Sugar Refinery, which is also in our arrondissement, we arranged a second meeting, in which a women refiner discharged on account of their part in the strike, comrade Foucher, spoke on „The Conditions of Labour for the Women in the Refinery“, and comrade Chaboseau on „Woman and Socialism“.

The agitation which we have thus started in the 13th arrondissement has were us, in five months, 17 women members, bringing the number of our Commission up to 31. But by means of newspaper articles and by verbal propaganda, we have made adherents of women in other districts of Paris; and we count on furnishing women speakers for the public conferences of other sections and, thus, establishing other Women's Commissions in Paris next winter.

In addition to this, we can inform you that a group of Women Socialists at Bordeaux, hitherto not of the Party, has now rallied to it, with a view to active and common propaganda.

We have but little to say and the Socialist Women's movement in France; but we can affirm, nevertheless, that this movement has taken its first steps and that it meets with the liveliest sympathy on every side.

On behalf of the Women's Commission of the 13th Section.

E. Sons, Secretary.

## **Report on women's position and work in the Independent Labour Party of Britain.**

This is the largest Socialist Society in Britain and has over 650 Branches and over 30000 members. It is growing very rapidly and is adding at present from 13 to 16 new Branches each week. The women are not separately entered so we cannot give separate membership figures for them but they have always taken an active part in the work of the party. They have a perfectly equal position with the men. There has always been a woman on the Central Committee of the Party, and Miss Margaret Mac Millan who holds that position at present is here (in Stuttgart) with us as a delegate. On the local Committees also many women are serving, and the women members take part in all the various branches of work, speaking, writing, doing election work, etc. Some of those who built up the movement by speaking from one end of the country to the other lost their lives as the result of their devoted hard work, and we count these Enid Stacy, Caroline Martyn as martyrs for our cause.

We fortunately are not prohibited in England as our German comrades are from political work and we have Socialist women sitting as members on Boards of Guardians, Education Committees etc., and this Autumn we hope to run Socialist Women as Candidates for Town Councils as a Bill is going through Parliament to give women that right.

We have not the vote for Parliament unfortunately, and are all working for that, but meanwhile we influence legislation as much as we can. This is easier since we have a number of Socialist members in Parliament, and we have been working at such questions as feeding of school children, medical inspection of school children, unemployment amongst women, etc.

We also try to educate the children in Socialism and many of our members work in Socialist Sunday Schools. One of our delegates Miss Glasier is the editor of a Magazine for Socialist children, called The Young Socialist.

We have no special Socialist women's paper, but in our Socialist papers women's questions are specially treated. In the official Organ of the Independent Labour Party Mrs. Bruce Glasier writes every week for women, and we have Julia Dawson who writes in another Socialist paper, the Clarion, here with us today.

We have divided up our British reports to represent different sides of our women's movement and Mrs. Macpherson and Miss Mary Macarthur, who are both members of our party will report on the Woman's Labour League and the Womens Trade Unions.

I will therefore conclude by repeating that we women of the Independent Labour Party feel it our duty to work enthusiastically in the Socialist movement and that we were delighted when we received the invitation to meet you to-day, the women comrades working for Socialism in so many different countries.

Margaret E. Mac Donald (Mrs. J. R. Mac Donald).

### **Report of the Woman's Labour League of England.**

The Woman's Labour League was founded in March 1906, almost immediately after the last parliamentary elections in England when 30 Labour members were returned to the House of Commons. The Labour Party consisting of Socialists, Trade Unionists, Cooperators came into existence in 1900 and now includes nearly one million organized members of the Independent Labour Party, the Fabian Society and the Trade Unions. The work of the Woman's Labour League is to organize the women of the proletariat as a whole to work in connection with the Labour Party and to obtain direct Representation of Women in Parliament and on local bodies.

The League now has 25 branches and is widening in numbers rapidly. It has held two successful conferences since its formation and is carrying on an active propaganda in support of Labour Representatives.

Mary Macpherson.

### **Report of the Women's Committee of the Social Democratic Federation of England.**

The Women's Committee of the Social Democratic Federation of England has not been long in existence. Our English women comrades have, till recently, felt that in the Social Democratic Federation it was unnecessary to have any sort of separate organization for women. Women have been welcomed into the S. D. F. and received on exactly the same terms as men. Their opinions have been listened to, and their efforts on behalf of the organization appreciated and encouraged by their men comrades. But it has not been noticed that many women have actually become members of the Federation. On the contrary, we have often been faced by the fact that while a man has been an enthusiastic and energetic worker in the cause of Social Democracy, he has been hampered and kept back in his efforts by opposition from his wife at home. This is largely owing to the fact that education in England is so much behind continental education. Our proletarian women have no

grasp of economics and their general education has been of such a nature as to make it almost impossible for them to understand how essential it is for all workers, men and women alike, to have a thorough comprehension of the truths of Social Democracy. Recognizing these facts, the women of the English Social Democratic Federation have decided to form educational circles in connection with branches of the S. D. F. All women are invited to attend their meetings and in every case in which a Women's Circle has been formed many new members have been added to the S. D. F.

Two annual conferences have already been held. One in 1906 at the Shoreditch Town Hall, London and one in 1907, at Chandos Hall, London, the head quarters of the Social Democratic Federation.

New circles are being formed all over the country and a strong impetus has been given to the work of the women inside the S. D. F.

The S. D. F. women are strongly opposed to the „feminist“ movement, realizing that the emancipation of the workers must be achieved by all workers, men and women alike, joining together in true comradeship and working hand in hand to obtain their economic freedom. They therefore are in opposition to the Woman's Suffrage movement, recognizing that any extension of the present English franchise to women would result in the enfranchisement of all women of the propertied class but only a very infinitesimal number of proletarian women and would therefore necessarily be of a reactionary character. The franchise in England is a low one, but so hampered by registration laws that the contention that Manhood Suffrage practically obtains is not true. It is necessary to be in residence for a whole year before it is possible to qualify as a voter. The 15th of July is the date upon which all registration returns must be made. If a householder is compelled to move on the 1st of August in any given year, say 1907, he cannot apply to be registered as a voter before the 15th of July 1908, and will be unable to vote before the 15th of July 1909. The result is that many of the English working-class are disfranchised through change of residence necessitated by change of employment. In addition to this the extension of the existing English franchise to women is made still more difficult by the judge-made law of „Coverture“ which practically declares that a married woman has no existence apart from her husband. As the majority of our working-class women are Married, the class privilege in this instance would be considerably augmented. The last bill presented to the British House of Commons by Mr. Dickinson contained a clause especially referring to married women, but even here a married woman would only have been able to qualify by proving that she was responsible for payment of rent to the amount of £ 10 per annum as well as her husband. No married

woman could prove that, unless she were in a position to rent a house of at least £ 20 annual value.

It is strongly felt by the English Social Democratic women that no further extension of the franchise can be of any use to them as workers. They therefore demand the abolition of all existing franchise and registration laws, and the establishment of Universal Suffrage for men and women alike.

It has been most encouraging to all Social Democratic English women to find that the vote of the International Socialist Congress has been given in favour of the measure that they have upheld in the face of much vilification and abuse on the part of so-called Socialist English women, who have sacrificed the principle of Social Democracy to mere opportunist tactics in giving their support to a limited measure of enfranchisement for women. While bringing to the front the sex antagonism which is the result of the economic position of women, and which will exist until the establishment of the Cooperative Commonwealth, these supporters of a reactionary movement, have lost sight of, or chosen to ignore, the class-antagonism which is crushing down the workers men and women alike.

The English Social Democratic women go back to their own country invigorated and strengthened by the consciousness of the support of the whole International Socialist party, and determined to throw that access of strength and vigour with renewed force into the movement in England, so that England through the efforts of her women may stand in line with all nationalities in the great and glorious struggle for the emancipation of the proletariat of the world.

Kathleen B. Kongh.

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## **Report of the Women's National Progressive League of America.**

The Woman's National Progressive League of America sends greetings to the Socialist women of Germany, and, through them, to all the organizations of women represented at the First International Conference of Women Socialists to be held at Stuttgart on Saturday, August 17th, 1907.

In attestation of the standing of our association we enclose herewith a copy of the Constitution and By-laws of the Woman's National Progressive League, which has a membership throughout the United States and Canada of about three thousand, and which is constantly growing.

The objects of the League are: The organization of women to disseminate a knowledge of Socialism; the establishment of contact

with other organizations of women for this purpose; the presentation of equal suffrage from this standpoint; the interpretation of remedial legislation in relation to women and children through this medium; the reading and dissemination of Socialist literature; the formation of educational clubs for the study of Socialism; the training and providing of speakers on this subject; the publication of a paper for the furtherance of all the subjects and work of this Association; the formation of Co-ordinate Branches composed of women in harmony with its purposes, and the endeavor to create an international organization of women. The expression of these objects should place us in harmony with all Socialist women. It is our intention to carry the propaganda of Socialism into all ranks of women, and through all organizations, whether educational, social or labor.

Owing to the fact that the home organization of the Woman's National Progressive League in New York City has only recently been perfected, we are not in a position to send delegates to the first meeting of the Conference, but hope to have a future representation. In the meantime we trust that we shall be favored with a report of the transactions of the Conference, for it is our desire to maintain international relations with organizations of Socialist women, and we welcome this opportunity of joining hands with the comrades of other countries in the work of emancipating the women of the world from their centuries of thralldom. We had hoped for the honor of creating such international relations through the medium of our own organization, but we cheerfully yield the precedence to our German sister-comrades in this respect, only asking to be received into the international family.

The Woman's National Progressive League desires to establish communications with organizations of women in other countries, and begs that delegates to the Conference will notify their respective bodies to communicate with its President or Secretary for this purpose.

In the hope that this first meeting of the Conference may be successful, that its deliberations may be conducted in the spirit of wisdom and fraternity and that the international solidarity of women for the cause of Socialism may be achieved, we beg to subscribe ourselves, with renewed greetings on behalf of the Woman's National Progressive League,

Fraternally yours,

President Mary Wiklure.

Secretary Sadie M. Walling.



## The Proletarian Woman's movement in Finland.

The Social Democratic movement of Finland is still young, consequently there could be no take of a proletarian woman's movement in the Empire of the thousand lakes fifteen years ago. Certainly in a few bigger towns even then could be seen the beginnings of a union of the proletariat women, yet the attempts at organization of which we speak, sprang from bourgeois circles and the two or three working women's unions were completely under the influence of Bourgeois views. But the more the working men's Societies to which women also belonged become permeated with Social Democratic ideas, the more they learnt to look on political life as well as public life in general, in this light, so much the more were the women of the women classes caught by the theories of socialism. Individuals then turned up who devoted themselves to the socialist agitation and strove to interest the women in the founding of societies. The result of such endeavours was continually increasing number of women who were in sympathy with the Socialist Labour movement and took part in it. In consequence the Labour Unions founded more and more Women's Sections. As the movement grew and the organization of the women made progress it became clear that it was necessary that the individual societies should unite together, and mutually encourage each other and help to increase the value of their work. Thus there came together in Helsingfors for the first time the representatives of 21 Working Women's Societies and 33 Hand Worker Societies. Twelve questions were considered, among which were the following; agitation, Trade questions, Woman's Suffrage, Foundation of a Federation of the Womens Section of the Labour Unions, as well as the starting of a paper of their own. The meeting proved, that the Woman's Sections of the Societies in general, although lacking all feeling and definite communication with each other all stood on the same basis of socialism and had carried on a thoroughly socialist agitation. And the congress took up from the beginning the class standpoint, and accentuated the fact that the proletariat could only break their chains with their own strength. The result of this conference was a vigorous agitation which deepened in our country the opinion that the women of the working class must be aroused by a socialist propaganda, in order that they might take up for themselves the fight for the improvement of their position in the present and their complete emancipation in the future. The Women's Sections joined in a Federation whose administration took up their seat in Helsingfors. The question of representation remained undecided for the time being. The second conference of the organized social democratic working women took place in Abo in 1902.

The Conference was attended by 33 delegates from 24 societies — which embraced 500 working women — 27 questions came on the order of proceedings. Among others came that of the relation to the bourgeois womans movement. It was made clear that and how the latter seeks to support the Capitalist System and must consequently be opposed by socialist women. The Conference decided, to remove the administration of the Federation to Wiborg where it has its seat now. The following Socialist Woman's Conferenze was held on the 17th, 18th and 19th july in Tifors. At it were present 68 women representatives of 42 women's sections and 8 Women's Trade Unions, who represented in all 2351 working women. The report of the Secretary shewed that at the instigation of the Executive of the Federation 113 addresses had been held in various parts of the country. The question of Universal Suffrage for all adults without distinction of sex had been thoroughly dealt with. Eight different pamphlets had been distributed. As the necessity had been recognized to educate the youth to a sozialist view, the Executive of the Federation had got up in Wiborg a course of lectures, for this purpose and encouraged at the same time the foundation of organizations of the youth: the „Society for the cultivation of the Ideal“. The Conference at Tifors dealt in general with the same questions which had been discussed at the previous conferences and some new ones cropped up besides, namely that of women workers and home industry. It was resolved to make the Helsingfors periodical Dienstbotenblatt (Domestic Servant's Journal) also useful in the interests of the Women Workers in general, because in consequenc of the strict censorship the permission to found a social Democratic Woman's paper of their own was not to be thought of. The Conference decided, to increase the numbers of the members of the Executive Committee of the administration of the Federation, in order that the towns of Helsingfors, Tammerfors, Abo, and Kotka might be represented on it. Especially from the Summer 1905 the movement grew ever stronger and at greater rate. The Coup d'Etat in Autumn 1905 aroused a large number of the indifferent among wide sections of the people to political life, and to class consciousness. Consequently new members crowded into the Labour Societies and the Women Sections. The demand of the Social Democratic Party that the great mass of the people should be assured a corresponding representation in Parliament, met with decided opposition from the side of the bourgeois parties and circles. The agents of the various constituencies met consequently in Helsingfors on december 2nd and 3rd 1905 to decide vigorous action. The fight for a genuine suffrage was taken up with all energy. The party organized demonstrations on a large scale to bring a pressure from the masses to bear on the old pri-

privilege Parliament, and to force them to resolve on universal suffrage for all adults and a Single Chamber System. On 17th december great demonstration processions were got up by the women comrades in the whole country, on which more than 25000 people took part. At there a declaration was read and passed which was as follows. Gathered in our tens of thousands, we women of the people declare unanimously; we recognize the Single Chamber System and a democratically compound populare representation. We demand for all women of 21 years active and passive suffrage. We consider it to be a moral and patriotic duty of the reeling classes to grant as the rights which we demand and we assure them that the refusal of these will only incite as to further strugglis.

The Social Democratic Party kept the movement going and the women comrades took an energetic part. Every where Women's Meetings were got up in which the fact was proclaimed that the active and passive suffrage for must be demanded and fought for. The Social Democratic Womans Federation appointed a woman agitator and besides that sent many women speakers to meetings. From the 1st july 1905 on till 1st july 1907 were held at their suggestion 231 lectures in 175 different places before 41333 hearers. Besides that a course of lectures was got up for the sake of a young people's Society in Konerola. The Federation published during the period in question 8 agitation pamphlets. When then finally the old Privilege Parliament, which rested on the System of Estates, decided after long consideration to accept the Bill which introduced the Single Chamber System as well as a new suffrage and after that the Reform had on 20 july 1906 been sanctioned, the Social Democratic Woman's movement turned to new tasks. Certainly the new law laid down many regulations which by no means pleased the working class. Thus for example that the limite of age for the exercise of the suffrage was fixed at 24 years, that the suffrage was tied down to the payment of the crown tax, that persons could not exercise it who had received aid from the poor law. Nevertheless it was necessary to go on with the practical political work and for that a foundation was laid down in this law. Also the social democratic women could cooperale effectively because they had the active and passive suffrage. Our activity must be directed to shewing what a remarkable factor in the economic and political life is the working class and what a justified right it has to an efficacious defence of their interests.

Perhaps we have up to now said too little of the attempts to organise the Finnish Women in Trade Unions and thus to improve their position. During the struggles reported by us, the trade union organization of the women also made progress and movements have

been got up for better conditions of labour. Specially noteworthy were the strikes in the factories at Woikka, Kymi and Kunsankoski, which ended all the same with a defeat for the working men and women. The strike have been up to now in the main attempts of the workers of the so-called „free trades“ and of the workers working in the towns and the organized workers. More rare were strikes among the agricultural workers. The demands made by the workers referred to rise of wages, shorter hours of work, or other improvements which would make the condition of the workers more worthy of human beings. But because the organizations in Finland were still weak, the strikes were frequently isolated and insufficiently prepared. All the same many of them attained their object. It must also be acknowledged that they contributed towards awakening the women workers to class consciousness and to shewing them the need for Trade Union organization. Ever more and more have the women workers joined together in trade Societies. The Domestic Servants, the Sewing women, the Factory women, the female Bricklayers assistants, the laundresses and other trades have founded unions which form together the „Federation of Finnish Workers.“ It may be further mentioned that last winter a brutal persecution of agricultural workers took place on the Lanko Estate which rendered many families who were rooted to the soil their whole life, homeless, and drove many a mother of a family out of her mind from desperation.

The Social Democratic Party of Finland held in Autumn 1906 a Congress which finally decided the program for the Parliamentary Elections. The Woman's Federation, which belonged to the party, thereupon called a special conference for the 8th, 9th and 10th October at Wiborg, the object of which was to develop in accordance with the resolutions of the General Party Congress a vigorous agitation of the women comrades in among the women. It shows the growth of the Women's Federation that by women's organizations sent 130 delegates to the Conference and 26 other comrades attended the proceedings. The Conference advocated a common action of the Federation with the Party at the next elections. They discussed a number of questions which were contained in the electoral program and were of special importance for women. Thus the Land Question, the Servants Question, Labour Protection, National Independence, Communal Suffrage, School Reform, Prohibition of Alcohol, the rights of the married woman, etc. The Conference resolved among other things to form a committee for the publication of a woman's organ, which would have to serve in the interests of the party.

In following winter a very great activity was developed. The women comrades worked together with the men in the electoral, the communal and provincial circles. The number of women speakers

increased considerably. A special conference of the Woman's Federation resolved that this should henceforth be called „The Social Democratic Woman's Federation“. The Federation held 190 lectures in 245 places, which were attended by about 50 000 persons. In Autumn they published an agitation pamphlet: „Women to the Poll!“ Latter during the electoral struggle, 50 000 copies of the „Electoral Report of the Social Democratic Woman's Federation“ were distributed. On the third of march mass meetings of women were held everywhere in the country at which tens of thousands took part. Since january 1907 „Die Arbeiterfrau“ (The Working Woman) has begun to appear which is published by the Social Democratic Woman's Federation. The paper appears weekly in eight sides and takes the place of the „Domestic Servant“ which has been withdrawn. The first elections to Parliament which took place on 15 march under universal suffrage brought a great Social Democratic Victory. Just as the women comrades had taken part in the elections fight, so did they reap a good part of the Victory. Among the 19 Women elected to Parliament were 9 Social Democrats. Just like all the work outside of Parliament, so is all the work inside of Parliament carried on as a common work of all Social Democrats without distinctions of sex. From the motions which the Social Democratic Section had brought in in Parliament four were Suggested and worked out by the women. They concern the abolition of the special law for domestic servants, the legal position of women, the stanting of homes for abandoned children, as well as for unmarried mothers, and their children, the raising of the age of marriage of gires from 15 to 17 years.

At present 93 organizations are joined to the Social Democratic Woman's Federation. Subscriptions are paid for 3709 members. The number of the Woman's Sections in the Workers Societies in the whole country amounts to aboat 190, they are either so young that they have not yet joined the Federation or they do not yet pay regular subscriptions. The parly had at the end of last year 18677 women members.

Leaving our progress on one side we do not disguise from ourselves that our Federation, in fact our whole organization must be still better built up and that it is a question of putting forth all our efforts to win the great field for socialism which awaits us among the working women. It demands unceasing patient work to win for socialism the women who have been blinded by clerical superstition or bourgeois hypocrisy. The women comrades of Finnland will take this work with all enthusiasm in the hand. They have set up the red flag, and are bringing to the masses the ideals of the International Proletariat in wich their soul is steeped. They

want to contribute their share to the spreading of the light of socialism and to sow in the far north the seeds of a happier future for mankind. They desire that the women of the Finnish Working class shall be fired by the conviction: The Proletariat has only chains to lose — a world to win.

Hilja Parsinnen (Lünamaa).

## **Address of the Federation of Swedish Women Workers.**

On the occasion of the first International Conference of Socialist Women we seize the opportunity to send you hearty greetings as well as the best wishes for the success of your work, in the consideration of the important questions which will occupy the time of the conference.

We are much obliged for your kind invitation but are unable on various grounds to send a representative although we are convinced that the fact of meeting the women comrades of the different countries will be very instructive.

We attach a very great value to the vigorous work which the Social Democratic Women in the other countries perform for the emancipation of the workers. The women in our country try to follow your example. We are drawing a net of Social Democratic Women's Clubs and Trade Unions over the whole of Sweden because we know that the Women must take an active part in the struggle of the proletariat for emancipation. Also we perceive that it is necessary for the women to join together on an international basis both in trade unions and politically, because we are subject to the same oppression and consequently have common interests.

May the result of this first Conference of Socialist Women result in a closer union of the organized women comrades of all countries. We would hail it with joy if the conference could devise practical measures in this sense.

Long live the International Social Democratic Woman's movement.

Anna Sherky. Gertrud Mansen. Ruth Gustafson.  
Miss Lindley. Alma Tengdahl.

## **Address to the Conference, sent by the Editor of the Socialist Women, Chicago.**

To all women comrades who may gather at your International conference, my hearty good wishes and my greatest desire for your success always.

It is a sign of a great future for the Social Democratic movement the world over, that women are beginning to awaken and to assert themselves in its cause. In the United States we have not arrived at a consciousness of ourselves, nor to the necessity of our activity as the women comrades of Germany and other countries seem to have done. But our women in this country are beginning to grow restless, and we feel certain that they will very soon make themselves felt in our Socialist movement. One of the signs of their awakening is the amount of space that is being given them in our Socialist papers. My own experience as former member of the editorial staff of *The Appeal to Reason*, makes me notice this phase in particular. At that time it was so unpopular to have any space devoted especially to women, that the Appeal was forced to dispense with its Woman's Department. Today our Socialist dailies and many of the smaller papers devote space to matters of especial interest to women and children. I feel that this has come about through the demand of women themselves, which is proof of their growing consciousness of their needs and desires.

The space, necessarily small, that is devoted to women in our average party papers, is not sufficient for them. So we have started a small monthly which will be given entirely to the discussion of matters of interest to women, from the Socialistic view point. This little paper seems to meet a general want, and we hope soon to see it grow into a substantial monthly, and read by many thousands of women.

We will be very glad to have communications from time to time, or articles telling of socialist woman's work and progress in other lands. And especially we would be glad to hear why Socialist women should organize, and carry on a special propaganda for women. We still have great need of educating our people to the need of special propaganda among women. Especially among our most „scientific“ party members such a propaganda does not meet with the favor it should.

Personally I do not believe in „segregation“ or separation of the sexes; but the development of the sexes up to the present time has been such as to necessitate some deviation from our old methods, that we may catch and hold the interest of women in order to educate them to the acceptance of Socialist views. Our capitalist papers and magazines are far outstripping us in their appeal to the gentler sex, and we must do something to offset their influence.

Again expressing my appreciation of the conference's work, I am with all good wishes,

Yours for the Revolution,

Josephine Conger-Kaneko.

## Address to the first International Conference of Socialist Women at Stuttgart.

Dear comrades, as probably the oldest veteran of the socialist movement send the heartiest greetings to the Conference of Socialist Women. I see in it one step more to the realisation of that great warning which the Communist Manifesto proclaimed to the World more than half a century ago: Proletariat of all countries unite. Already the old revolutionary International had turned to all proletarians, to all exploited without distinction of sex and at all times defended with word and deed the interests of the female proletariat women and the rights of the female sex. The new socialist International continues in this respect the work which its predecessor had begun. It is a sign of the growing triumph of the revolutionary socialist thought, that the women desire to begin to unite on an international basis in the ranks of the fighting proletariat. The women comrades can be assured in this work of the sympathy and active support of the convinced socialists.

The more dearly the socialist parties of all countries recognize the importance of a clear proletariat woman's movement, every Social Democrat and Trade Unionist must be fully convinced that it is his duty to strive to have his wife and daughter as true comrades in arms by his side. May the splendid example of our great Karl Marx and his companion in life, the noble Jenny Marx which they have given in the pure and strong community of their efforts, act as an example to us all. I am persuaded that the proceedings and resolutions of the conference will contribute to win followers of the theories of the International Socialism among the proletariat women of all countries, and to pave the way for a common successful international action of all women comrades. With the best and most hearty wishes for the success of your labours I remain dear comrades in all community of aim and fight.

Your old friend

Friedrich Lessner.





## **Report of the National Federation of Women Workers.**

No report of the women's socialist movement in Great Britain would be complete without a reference to the Women's Trade Union movement.

There has recently been a remarkable development in our Women's Unions. We have now over 140 000 Women Trade Unionists over fifteen thousand of which have been added during the last 3 years. The Women's Trade Union movement in our country is not yet an avowedly socialist movement but practically all its leaders are socialists. It is not in any sense allied with the bourgeois feminist movement. Over 100 000 Women Trade Unionists are affiliated with the Labour Party so that, while all of them support it morally the great majority supports it also financially.

The Women's Trade Union movement in Britain is shortly to have a paper of its own which under the name of „The Woman Worker“ will appear in September 1907. The object of this paper will be to teach in a simple way the principles not only of Trade Unionism but of Socialism to the working women of our country. The effect of the Women's Trade Union movement on the Socialist movement is a very important one. First in winning by improvements in the industrial position of women the field for socialist recruiting, secondly in educating the Women Trade Unionists in the principles of Socialism.

Indeed in my opinion the most significant and the most hopeful function of our Women's Trade Unions is that they are becoming more and more schools of Socialist propaganda amongst the women wage earners of Britain who are rapidly realizing that in Socialism and in Socialism alone lies their industrial salvation.

Mary R. Macarthur.