

World Congress of Women in June Will Demand the Right to Vote

NEW YORK, April 18.—On June 15, next, nearly 1,000 delegates will be gathered in Chicago to choose a candidate for president of the United States, a very different body will assemble on the other side of the ocean—a congress of women delegates from the whole world who will meet to demand the right to choose those who shall conduct their government. At this convention of the International Woman Suffrage alliance in Amsterdam will be the representatives of national associations in more than twenty countries, comprising practically all that have reached any considerable degree of civilization.

Fourteen of these are thoroughly organized and doing effective work—those in the United States, Canada, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Russia, Italy, Hungary and Australia. The societies in France, Switzerland, Belgium and South Africa are of more recent origin, but are vigorous and enthusiastic. There will be delegates present also from Bulgaria, Rumania and Bohemia, where the women are pressing their claims along with the men for universal suffrage.

New Zealand, whose women have the complete franchise on the same terms as men, will send representatives. The women of Australia, who also are fully enfranchised, have transformed their suffrage society into the Women Political association, in which some of the former leading anti-suffragists are now bright and shining lights. They have, however, been affiliated with the International Alliance from the beginning, always sending delegates to the conventions and in every practicable way help the women of other countries to get the suffrage. The situation is the same in Finland, where the women now vote on exactly the same terms as men.

While the International Alliance was holding its convention in Copenhagen two years ago the prime minister of Norway telegraphed the Norwegian delegates that the woman suffrage bill was about to be made a government measure. This year these delegates will come in all the flush of victory, enfranchised citizens.

They will not, however, be quite on the high political level of those from New Zealand, Australia and Finland, for their new privilege carries with it a small property qualification. This is so slight, indeed, that even domestic servants can meet it, but their National Suffrage association maintains unbroken ranks while this exists and sounds the slogan, "No taxes on women that are not imposed on men." As the women vote for the members of Parliament, it is safe to say that those officials will abolish the tax qualification or step down from their high places.

It will be a bitter dose for the Swedish delegates to hear the Norwegian women tell about their victory, for the enmity between the women of those two countries is deeper even than between the men. The women of Sweden say that at the next convention they, too, will come as enfranchised citizens and that their triumph has been delayed only because the last Parliament made no large extension of the franchise to men.

The Amsterdam meeting will lack the picturesque that doubtless would be imparted by the British suffragettes. They are not eligible as delegates, alas! because they are not "regular." They themselves will admit the fact—regularity is the last virtue they would claim. It is not their irregular methods that bar them out, but the fact that only national associations can affiliate with the international body, and these militant recruits have declined to unite with the

stead, respectable, middle-aged National society of Great Britain; but perhaps they will send a delegate if some of their members should be enjoying a midsummer vacation from jail. She would meet a very welcome group from the regulars of many countries who feel like doing what the British suffragettes actually have done.

Some measure of progress toward woman suffrage will be reported by the delegates of every nation except the United States. Here alone the movement does not appear to have made any headway, but those who have made a study of it in many ways and best understand the situation believe that an undercurrent is now developing which in the not distant future will sweep over the country like a tidal wave.

Still one cannot make a report on an undercurrent which will very deeply impress an international convention or reflect great glory on one's native land, and the delegates from this country would take a back seat and keep still, they were permitted to do so. Far from this, however, they are always willingly and gladly put in the leadership at these international meetings. Women of just as much natural ability are present from other countries, but few or none with so wide experience in organization and public work. The Americans also have the advantage of being perfectly neutral on the many points of difference that exist among foreign countries and therefore enjoy the confidence and friendship of all.

This International Suffrage alliance, like the International Council of Women, had its beginning in the United States. It was the dream of Mrs. Stanton and Miss Anthony when there were but two woman suffrage associations in all the world, those of their own country and Great Britain.

In 1902, soon after Mrs. Chapman Catt succeeded Miss Anthony as president of the national association, a meeting was called in Washington and attended by delegates from six countries. An international suffrage committee was formed, with Miss Anthony as chairman and Mrs. Chapman Catt as secretary.

When the women of all nations were gathered at Berlin in 1904 for the international council the suffrage alliance was organized by delegates from national societies in eight countries. Thus, at the age of 34, Miss Anthony saw her dream realized and was unanimously and enthusiastically made honorary president of the new association.

The first biennial convention was held in Copenhagen in 1906 with national associations of thirteen countries represented by delegates; at the Amsterdam meeting it is expected that twenty-two will have official representatives. This is six years is seen an increase of national organizations from six to twenty-two, almost fourfold, indisputable proof of what is rapidly becoming a world movement for woman suffrage. There is scarcely a country having a representative form of government where woman are not demanding a voice in it.

The place of holding the conventions is determined by conditions. The alliance was invited to Copenhagen by the Danish association because the women of Denmark were not keeping pace with those of other Scandinavian countries, the Norwegian and Swedish at that time having every franchise but the parliamentary and the widows and orphan's vote. Iceland possesses the same, with the additional right of eligibility to many offices, while Danish women had no suffrage or eligibility.

The convention was a marked success, the press was very favorable, the queen gave a long audience to the president of

the alliance, asking for an outline of the movement, and the municipality extended an official reception in the town hall, several of the aldermen in their addresses declaring themselves heartily in favor of the enfranchisement of women. The next year the Parliament gave women the right to vote for the Imperial State Board of Public Charities, made them eligible to serve on it, and two were elected.

This year a bill giving women municipal suffrage on the same terms as men has been made a government measure and passed the under house of Parliament. The government has a safe majority in the lower house and the success of the bill is so well assured that all political parties are registering women for the approaching elections.

It is not surprising therefore that the women of the Netherlands, when they saw a campaign approaching, should extend a cordial invitation to the women of all nations to come with the influence of their presence and words in that fraternal spirit which sees in the granting of political

liberty to women anywhere a great step forward toward its possession everywhere. There has long been a favorable minority for woman suffrage in the Dutch Parliament, but the ministry has been hostile, and, according to the law, it holds the privilege of making all changes in electoral rights.

In 1907 the liberal element came into power and its first act was to issue a commission for revising the constitution and broadening the suffrage for men, only seven-twentieths of whom now have a vote. The National Woman Suffrage association, a strong organization which has been in existence about thirteen years, at once memorialized this commission to include women in the franchise clause of its proposed constitution.

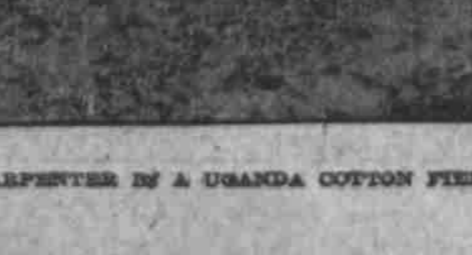
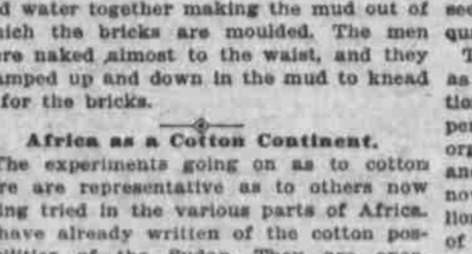
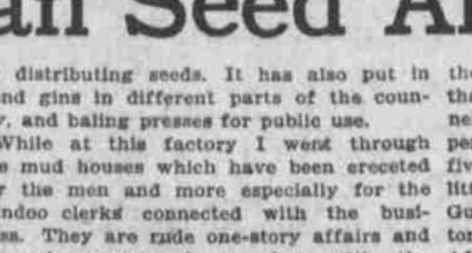
Six out of its seven members not only favored this as far as they had power, but also recommended that women should be made eligible for all offices, including the Parliamentary. This report was accepted by the cabinet and presented to the Parliament, which alone has the authority to submit a constitution to the voters

and their handsome home has long been a center of hospitality in which many Americans have shared.

The convention will be held in the beautiful concert hall of Amsterdam, the local committee paying \$1,000 for its use. The mornings will be devoted to business and the evenings to public meetings, with addresses by noted women from all parts of the globe. The afternoons will be given up to social pleasures.

The form of official recognition by the municipality has not yet been fully decided upon, but the mayor has declared his intention of giving a reception and tea. The congress will close with a big farewell dinner, at which the guests will be entertained by national dances and songs given in the native costumes.

Miss Quenn Wilhelmina receive the congress or its representatives? That is a burning question. She has shown very little interest in the advancement of women along any lines, and such delegates as she has received have felt chilled by her indifference.



A strong sentiment for enfranchising women soon developed in all political parties. In the last week in December, however, the ministry resigned because of a defeat on the army estimates bill. The government is now only temporary and it looks as if the International alliance coalition, instead of taking place during a campaign for woman suffrage, as was expected, may find itself in the midst of elections for a new Parliament.

Whatever the conditions may be, the influence of this great meeting will be to create a public sentiment for giving the vote to women, and the National association with its membership of many thousands is making active preparation for the week's sessions. The president, Dr. Aletta H. Jacobs, although she has scarcely yet reached middle life, was the pioneer woman physician of the Netherlands and is a woman of much ability. Her husband, Dr. Garretson, was a member of the Parliament for a number of years until he "rested a short time ago."

There is no anti-suffrage association of women in Holland to give variety and add an element of gaiety to the situation, but to save it from being entirely unexciting, there is a Society of Remonstrants. They are not so enlightened as actually to oppose the enfranchisement of women, but they want it deferred a little. Whenever the suffragists hold a public meeting they follow with another at which they declare that they love their country too much to allow a great unorganized and irresponsible body to express itself at the ballot box and beg that the franchise be withheld from women until they—these superior beings—can help to educate them for their important duty. It is superfluous to say that everywhere they strike an answering chord in the hearts of male listeners, who are quite willing to put off giving the vote to women for a whole generation, or two or three if necessary, until they can be brought up to the lofty standard of masculine citizenship.

The suffragists say that the ballot itself is the most potent of educators and that the total vote of men and women will strike a higher average than that of men alone even with the experience and superiority of the latter. At last accounts the women remonstrants were insisting anxiously if there was any room left in the band wagon.

The United States will have the prestige of being represented by the Amsterdam meeting by the president and secretary of the International Alliance, Mrs. Chapman Catt and Mrs. Avery. Among those who will go as delegates are the Rev. Anna Howard Shaw, president of the National Suffrage association; its legal advisor, Judge Catharine Waugh McCulloch, lately elected justice of the peace at Evanston, Ill.; Mrs. Oliver W. Stewart of Chicago, president of the Illinois association; Miss Janet E. Richards of Washington, the well known lecturer, and a number of other noted women.

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In 1907 the parliamentary suffrage was conferred on the women of Norway, who already possessed every other kind. Sweden, where women had a limited municipal suffrage, greatly enlarged this and declared them eligible to municipal offices. Denmark gave the concessions already quoted.

Great Britain made women eligible as town and county councillors and mayors, and seven cities elected women to their councils, while the passage of a bill giving them full suffrage was prevented only by the house taking a vote. Thus far in 1908 the bill for parliamentary suffrage has passed its second reading in the House of Commons by a vote of 231 to 22.

The Parliament of Iceland has reduced the property qualification for women, made them eligible to town councils, and the capital, Reykjavik, has elected four women to its council of fifteen members. A majority of the women of Iceland have petitioned for the full franchise and the Parliament has promised it in the near future.

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IDA RUSTED HARTER.

lands stands for more than the enfranchisement of women; it is the demand for a democratic form of government in which all citizens, men and women, shall have a voice, and is highly offensive to the aristocracy. Undoubtedly the young queen will be strongly urged not to recognize this great middle class movement, but she may have advisers wise enough or her own good sense may be sufficient to cause her to see that its recognition might be a stroke of diplomacy.

Possibly the queen mother, Emma, may give the movement her approval. She is said to be far broader in her views and to take much more interest in popular movements than her daughter, but then her responsibility is by no means so great.

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Prattle of the Youngsters

Teacher—If a hundred men work a hundred days at a dollar a day, what do they get?
Small Fred—Get mad and go on a strike, I guess.

Mamma—Why, children, what are you quarreling about?
Little Elmer—Helen coaxed me to play with her. She was with her, then she ate all the apple but the core.

"I don't know what is going to become of you when you grow up, Harold," said a father to his 6-year-old hopeful. "You are never satisfied with anything."
"O, I know," replied the little fellow. "I'm going to be a reformer, like Uncle George."

At the entrance of one of the large apartment houses in Boston are two life-size lions carved in stone. A little daughter of one of the occupants of the house played around the entrance a day or two after the family moved in, and, running to her mother, cried: "Mamma, there are two live lions at the door." Her mother said: "No, dear, they are not alive, and you know they are not." "But, mamma, they

are," she insisted. The mother, thinking a little solitude and time for reflection would clear the child's mind, led her to a room and said: "You go in there and ask God's pardon for telling a falsehood." After the lapse of some minutes the mother went to the door and called: "Dorothy, have you asked God's pardon?" "Yes, mamma, I told Him, and He said it was all right. He thought they were alive Himself at first."

"Oh, yes, Tommy," said the teacher, "if you have a dog you are the owner of a quadruped."
"No, I ain't," insisted Tommy.
"Don't contradict me. I explained to you yesterday that any animal with four legs was a—"
"Yes'm; but Rover lost one o' his'n fightin' a trolley car."

"When I grow up," said Tommy, "I ain't got'to bother about washin' my face ever."
"Aw, g'on," exclaimed Jimmy, "how kin yer help it?"
"Am got'ter grow whiskers all over me."
"Aw, dad'll be worse. Den yer'll have ter comb de knots out yer face."

Growing Cotton From American Seed Along Source of the River Nile

(Copyright, 1908, by Frank G. Carpenter.)
AMPALA, Uganda.—(Special Correspondence of The Bee.)—A nation of four million blacks who are beginning to plant American cotton.

A territory which has some of the best cotton soil known to the world and which is as big as Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina and Georgia combined.

A country produced by Great Britain, whose people have millions to back it and who make and sell more cotton than any other nation outside our own.

These are some of the conditions which point toward Uganda as the African cotton land of the future. The cloud is now no bigger than the hand of a man; but it is growing and it may bring mighty storms into our financial sky.

Cotton in Uganda.
It is now only two years since the British began to experiment with cotton raising in this part of the world. The first seed was sent out by the British Cotton Growing association, and it was distributed to the native chiefs throughout the country. That was in 1906, and there are now thousands of little plantations all over Uganda. In most places the fields are less than an acre in size, and in many they consist of only little patches connected with the banana growing about the house. Nevertheless the cotton is everywhere, and everywhere it grows well.

This is so with almost no cultivation. They have walked through fields where the plants were higher than my head and have pulled the lint from fat bolls surrounded by weeds.

The amount of seed first used was about 1,000 pounds. The product last year from this was almost 3,000,000 pounds, and this year the current crop will be 5,000,000 pounds of seed cotton. This all comes from cultivated patches set out by the natives and worked by them almost without instruction from those who are engineering the cotton movement here. I have seen hundreds of bags brought into Kampala on the heads of the natives who walk many miles to take their lint to the market. The amount coming in now is something like two tons per day, and there are great warehouses here which are packed full of cotton ready for ginning.

Cotton on Lake Victoria.
The cotton movement is being engineered by the Uganda Company, Limited. This is an association of English capitalists who have been more or less interested in the Christian mission work going on in Uganda. They represent a great deal of money, and have active and up-to-date men in their employ out here. They have a British manager and assistants and are putting up a big ginning plant, with the most modern ginning machinery. Twenty-four gins are already running, and these are operated by two steam engines, one of which is a hundred horsepower.

cotton here, grown from our seed, is superior to the same cotton grown in America, and that it is as good as any upland cotton that we produce. The present output of the gins is only about four tons per day, but this will be increased.

The company has also an hydraulic lifting press, made by the Messrs. Somers of Manchester, and it proposes to install other machinery. At present it is difficult to land heavy freight here. Until the Uganda railway was completed everything was brought in by black porters. As all was carried upon the head, no piece weighing more than sixty or seventy pounds could be carried on the long journey of 80 miles up from the coast. In this hydraulic press there is one cylinder in which weighs two and one-half tons, and it almost broke down the boat by which it was carried across Lake Victoria. The nearest landing place on that lake is several miles from Kampala, and the cylinder was dragged inland by a traction engine.

This same company has recently purchased a location under Ripon Falls, at the head of Napoleon lake, where the Nile flows out of Lake Victoria. The falls are such that they will furnish a big electric power, and it is the intention to build ginning mills and cotton factories there which will be run by the Nile at its source.

Modern Cotton Gin in Africa.
While I was in Omdurman, in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, which lies on the Nile fifteen hundred miles or so north of here, I saw half-naked negro women sitting flat on the ground taking the seeds out of the cotton with little gin run by hand. The gins were like clothes wringers. The lint passed through rolls not bigger around than a broomstick, and the work went on as slowly as in the United States before Eli Whitney invented his gin. The ginning establishment here has as up-to-date machinery as any in our southern states. It is a building of sun-dried brick covering perhaps one-eighth of an acre. It is of two stories, and the gins are on the second floor, so arranged that the cotton can be wheeled in and the lint dropped down below.

Right near the ginning rooms are the warehouses. These are now five in number. They are seventy-five feet long and thirty feet wide, and have on hand about 2,000,000 pounds of seed cotton ready for ginning. All this has come in within the past few months and the cotton is now arriving by the hundreds of bags every day.

All Brought In on the Head.
While at the factory I saw scores of natives trotting along with great bags of cotton on their heads, and wherever I go I pass men bringing in cotton. The stuff is still in the seed. It is put up in banana bark and bound over and over with banana fibers so that it cannot fall out during the carrying. Each bale weighs about seventy pounds, and this is a good load for a native. The men who bring it in are usually dressed in bark cloth, but some of them wear American, or American cotton sheeting, which is popular here in Uganda.

When the cotton arrives at the warehouse it is weighed, and the man is paid

in rupees, or in strings of cowry shells, about 2 cents a pound. This amount of 2 cents constitutes his reward for planting and harvesting the crop, in addition to bringing it for miles on his head to the factory. I am told the pay is considered small even among the natives; who work for wages as low as a dollar a month, and that there will have to be a raise in the price, or but little more will be planted. It is also whispered that the chiefs are getting a rake-off from the Uganda Company, Limited, and that for this reason they are enforcing the natives to sow cotton. So far the people have but little idea of intensive cultivation of any kind, and the cotton grown is the result of nature rather than work.

Just outside these warehouses I took a snap shot at a score or so of natives who had just sold their cotton. Each had a lot of cowry shells in his hands, and they were chatting and planning what they would buy with their money at the Hindoo stores of Kampala.

Cotton Planting Growing.
I am told that as soon as the price is increased the number of natives planting cotton will rapidly grow. The amount last year was five or six times that of the year before, and twelve times as much was raised in 1905 as in 1904. All the cotton so far grown is from American seed, the wild cotton having a coarse fiber with many large seeds in each boll. Egyptian cotton is now being tried, but so far it has not proved to be as suitable to this climate and soil as the American upland. The government itself is aiding in the movement

by distributing seeds. It has also put in hand gins in different parts of the country, and baling presses for public use. While at this factory I went through the mud houses which have been erected for the men and more especially for the Hindoo clerks connected with the business. They are rattle one-story affairs and do not compare in comfort with the homes of our factory people of the south. Just outside of the ginning establishment a score of natives were making bricks. The clay looked to me as though it came from the hills of the white ants. It lay in a pile on the ground and men and women, dressed in bark cloth, squatted about it pounding the clods into dust with clubs. In a pool near by another gang of natives was mixing the dust and water together making the mud out of which the bricks are moulded. The men were naked almost to the waist, and they tramped up and down in the mud to knead it for the bricks.

Africa as a Cotton Continent.
The experiments going on as to cotton here are representative as to others now being tried in the various parts of Africa. I have already written of the cotton possibilities of the Sudan. They are enormous, and the cotton now being raised about Khartoum is equal in quality to the best of that produced on the delta of the Nile. In British East Africa the authorities are attempting to raise cotton, and several successful plantations have been set out in South Africa. I understand that the Germans are doing considerable in the same line, not only between here and Lake Tanganyika, but also along

the coast in the vicinity of Zanzibar, and that they are already producing in the neighborhood of a thousand bales of lint per year. They have raised as much as five hundred bales in a year on their little plantations in Togoland, on the Gulf of Guinea, and they have sown cotton in the Camerin and in Southwest Africa.

The Italians are attempting the same in Eritrea, the little strip of territory which they own along the Red Sea. So far their success has been small. As to the French, they have done practically nothing in cotton in Africa as yet. The Belgians are making experiments throughout the Congo Valley, where they have plantations managed by Americans from Texas. They are using American seed, and the cotton grows in of excellent quality.

The British have an organization known as the British Cotton Growing association, which is backing many of the experiments in the English colonies. That organization has a capital of \$1,000,000, and its plantations here and there are now producing something like half a million dollars' worth of cotton a year. Some of its best work is being done in West Africa, and especially in Nigeria. There are also ginning establishments in Lagos, which take care of the cotton grown near the coast. I understand that, there are thirty or forty thousand acres there in a fairly good state of cultivation.

Plants Which Produce Silk.
It seems like a fairly strong when I say that there are plants out here in Africa which produce fibers which may possibly

be made into silk as fine as any spun by the silk worm. I am told that this is the case. My informant is Mr. R. T. Paske-Smith, the assistant-collector at Kampala, who was formerly stationed away off in the interior of Uganda. He says that the found there a plant which he thinks might be used for silk manufacture. He said:

"I saw many of these plants growing wild. They reach a height of five or six feet, and bear a fruit, shaped like the cotton boll, but much larger. I should say that the average fruit is as big around as a man's fist. These bolls have a silky fiber three or four inches long. It looks somewhat like cotton but it is far more soft, fleecy, and glossy. The fiber is wrapped around the seeds. During my stay there I gathered a lot of the wild seeds and picked off the lint. I then sowed them in about half an acre of well prepared ground. They grew rapidly without further cultivation, and when they matured I collected a little bag of the silk seed in the lint and sent it on to the authorities at Entebbe. Shortly after that I took sick with a fever and it was some months before I recovered. I then tried to find what became of my silk fiber, but the authorities at Entebbe could not inform me. I spoke of the plant to Archdeacon Walker, the head of the English Church Mission Society of Uganda. He said he knew it well and agreed with me that it might be valuable. I cleaned some of the fiber and stuffed a sofa pillow. It was as soft as wool."

"What is the name of this fiber, Mr. Paske-Smith?" I asked.
"I do not know what it is called botanically, or that it is mentioned in any botany. The natives call it mufumbo."

More About Bark Cloth.
And this leads me to write again about the wonderful bark cloth which is produced by almost every native family and which until recently formed about the only clothing worn by the million-people of the kingdom of Uganda. It is used in other countries as well and the natives of German East Africa raise much of it. There are several varieties of trees here which produce it, the favorite being a fig tree which grows to a height of from thirty to fifty feet, and from which bark strips can be taken which average six feet in width and four feet in length. The fiber of this bark are interwoven like cloth. It is wonderfully strong and when pounded and treated by the natives is almost as soft as velvet. It is sewn into durable clothing. Some of this cloth was shipped to New York about a year ago, but so far no record as to its final disposition has been received. The amount sent was 250 sheets, a similar shipment being made at the same time to London. The bark would make a very fine paper if it were ground, but whether it can be used as a weaving material for cloth remains to be seen. At present the only demand for it is among the natives.

Forests of Uganda.
I have just had a talk with Dr. Christy, an Englishman, who has a large concession of woodland running along the Nile just below where that great river flows out of Lake Victoria. The tract con-

FRANK G. CARPENTER BY A UGANDA COTTON FIELD.