

and Finland. In Canada, the government of Manitoba and British Columbia have pledged themselves to woman suffrage, and Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the leader of the Liberal party, and a professed admirer of the English Liberals, has formally announced his conversion to the cause.

It may be true that the United States lags behind several of the great nations in radical and socialistic legislation, but the American people have always been essentially democratic in the exercise of the franchise, and they cannot fail to be impressed by the advance of woman suffrage in the British Isles. Otherwise the outlook for the immediate future is not especially promising. Both Republican and Democratic platforms for the recent presidential election evaded the issue, and consigned it to the tender mercies of the several states; and Mr. Wilson, avowing a hearty sympathy with the cause, endorsed the platform of his party. Mr. Hughes, on the other hand, with characteristic independence of judgment, expressed himself strongly in favour of a constitutional amendment. Now, amendments to the Constitution can be sought either by Congress with the approval of two-thirds of both Houses or on application of the Legislatures of two-thirds of the several states, but in either case they become valid only upon ratification by the Legislatures of three-fourths of the several states. The suffragists, therefore, have much hard work before them, but Mr. Hughes's policy appears to be distinctly more advantageous than Mr. Wilson's or the platform of either of the two great parties.

The task which lies before the American suffragists is the conversion of the majority of the electors of three-fourths of the states of the Union. By what arguments are they going to bring about that conversion? And why have they so far failed in their efforts? Two years ago they made a great campaign, but the electors of Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania decided against them by overwhelming majorities. An appeal to Congress for the proposal of a constitutional amendment was equally unsuccessful. To one who followed carefully the progress of that