

THE

Catholic Citizen

Organ of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance (formerly Catholic Women's Suffrage Society), 55 Berners Street, London, W. 1.

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NOVEMBER, 1925.

Price Twopence.

Daughter of the ancient Eve,
We know the gifts ye gave and give ;
Who knows the gifts which you shall give,
Daughter of the Newer Eve ?

—Francis Thompson.

The Sixth Assembly.

By LESLIE R. ALDOUS.

The Sixth Assembly of the League of Nations, compared with the five previous Assemblies, was distinctly unspectacular. True, most of the national delegations which attended were imposing, at least twenty of the States-Members being represented by their Prime Ministers or Foreign Ministers. The opening speech of M. Painlevé, the French Premier, too, thrilled the whole world at the beginning of the three weeks' session. But, after the Assembly had divided itself into its six Committees, it settled down to a solid round of undramatic, though extremely useful, work.

This was all to the good. The absence of stirring episodes, like the Corfu crisis of 1923, though these might have advertised the League more effectively, provided a welcome opportunity for the League's many-sided work towards international co-operation to develop in the channels laid down in previous years.

In the early part of the Assembly, the British view on the Geneva Protocol for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes, gained the day. But most of the States left no doubt about the fact that they still believe in its principles, and will work towards their fulfilment, if through Pact stages. There is a strong feeling at Geneva that a remoulded "Protocol" is likely to come up for discussion at the Seventh Assembly next year.

No new States were admitted to membership at the Sixth Assembly. Before the Assembly, it seemed quite on the cards that Germany, and possibly Turkey, would apply. But, though Germany is undeniably gravitating towards the League, her Pact negotiations with Great Britain, France and Italy, did not proceed rapidly enough actually to bring her in this year.

The Mosul dispute between Great Britain and Turkey, of course, gave a considerable amount of work to the Assembly, though it concerned the Council more closely. Finally, certain legal points were referred to the Permanent Court of International Justice at the Hague. This Court, it may be added, was established by the First Assembly, and is distinct from the old Hague Tribunal with which it is often confused. The Assembly also decided to send a representative to the spot, to keep the League supplied with reliable news of events in the Mosul region.

For the greater part of the time, however, the Assembly was able to devote itself to its work on behalf of human welfare and to its reconstructive work.

Something of a thunderbolt was dropped at the Sixth Commission by the sudden introduction of a draft Convention on slavery, which Viscount Cecil presented on behalf of

the British Government. Slavery, it has long been realised at Geneva, is far more prevalent than most people imagine. The existing agreements—the Berlin and Brussels Acts and the St. Germain Convention—are unsatisfactory. The Convention now introduced is looked upon as the most important step taken against slavery since the Brussels Act of 1890.

The signatory States bind themselves to suppress all forms of the slave trade and to provide for the emancipation of all slaves in their territories. The Convention also deals in a less sweeping manner, with forced labour. Finally, all ships engaged in the slave trade are to be branded as pirates.

Doubtless the Convention will be modified somewhat, but the final document should be an exceedingly interesting one.

Dr. Nansen brought forward some important proposals in regard to the possibility of settling Armenian refugees in the Erivan Republic in South Russia. These will give the Allies a chance of fulfilling the promises they made to the Armenians after the War. It appears that there is room for 15,000 of the refugees in Erivan, but a loan will be needed for their settlement.

Mr. Austen Chamberlain paid a great tribute to the valuable piece of work which is being done for the protection of women and children in the Near East. Miss Jeppe's "Neutral House" at Aleppo has already been the means of rescuing some 3,000 unfortunates from the Turks and training them to be self-supporting. Much more remains to be done, and more could be done if funds were forthcoming. The Assembly voted £3,000 for the continuance of this work.

Welcome progress was also reported in the international campaign against the drug traffic, and against the traffic in women and children. The League's Health Committee, too, has made astounding progress in the past year. Its interchanges of public health personnel appear to have proved of particular value to the States whose medical officers participated.

The progress of the League's reconstruction schemes in various parts of Europe was reported to be very encouraging. Financial control of Austria by the League will practically terminate in January, 1926. Hungary, in whose case reconstruction has been proceeding for little more than a year, finds herself with a surplus on the Budget of

£4,000,000, instead of a deficit, as was anticipated.

In the case of the rather different Greek re-settlement scheme, the League Assembly was able successfully to clear up a number of points of dispute with the Greek authorities, which were impeding the progress of the settlement of upwards of a million refugees.

Finally, the Assembly made an effort to deal with the League's "housing problem." Its present temporary quarters are admittedly inadequate for the growing volume of business which comes to the League. By selling the present building and by making use of the arrears of contributions which have come in this year, it is anticipated that it will be possible to erect a permanent home for the League without any drain upon the individual States who are its members.

The State of the Streets.

3rd November, 1925.

MADAM,

Since the introduction into Parliament by Lady Astor of the Public Places (Order) Bill, the Home Secretary has shown that he is not averse to the appointment of a Committee of Enquiry to take evidence and report upon the state of the streets and the law and its administration in regard to solicitation for immoral purposes.

In preparation for such a Committee of Enquiry, this Association would welcome observations from reliable persons as to the present state of the streets and public places in any part of the country. For this purpose anonymous communications are useless, but correspondents are assured of honourable confidence being observed concerning their names and addresses.

Experiences resulting from deliberate loitering in doubtful districts would serve no useful purpose for this enquiry. We want to know to what extent, if any, respectable pedestrians of either sex passing through the streets on their legitimate business, are subject to accostation and interference from people of presumably immoral intention. May I beg that you will be good enough to help by inserting this letter in your columns.

ALISON NEILANS (Secretary),
Association for Moral and Social Hygiene,

Notes and Comments.

Feminist Societies are preparing for a strenuous campaign for Equal Franchise. We are weary of promises and fine words, it is full time that the unjust and ridiculous franchise laws obtaining in Great Britain should be swept away. Close upon eight years have slipped by since women accepted a Franchise Bill which left large numbers of women unenfranchised, but they accepted it as an instalment only. Every intelligent citizen knows that the discrimination against women is foolish and antiquated. Let the Government tackle the question boldly, if not from a love of justice, then for expediency's sake. We have never ceased to demand Equal Franchise.

* * * *

The Annual Report of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene is a record of admirable work done in a difficult field. The A.M.S.H., as our readers know, works for the abolition of State Regulation of Vice; endeavours to raise the standard of character and conduct in sexual relations; to secure the recognition of an equal standard of morality for men and women, and to eradicate prostitution and kindred evils. We believe that it is largely due to the work of the A.M.S.H. in educating public opinion in this country, that the Report of the Advisory Committee on Social Hygiene, of which we speak in another column, is a triumph for abolitionists.

* * * *

For the first time in the history of the University of Glasgow, the Brunton Memorial Prize for the most distinguished graduate in medicine was won by a woman, Miss Janet Niven. We offer her our sincere congratulations.

* * * *

We learn from *The Vote* that Madame Camille Flammarion, widow of the distinguished astronomer, has succeeded her husband as Director of the Observatory at Juvisy, and has also been elected Secretary-General of the French Astronomical Society, which was founded by her husband.

* * * *

At the first Autumn meeting of the Consultative Committee of Women's Organisa-

tions, our member, Miss A. M. Cole, moved a resolution on behalf of St. Joan's S.P.A., against the export of live horses for butchery; the resolution was signed by sixteen societies. We are proud of the splendid work done by Miss Cole in her campaign to save these poor animals from cruel suffering. The report of the Departmental Committee on the export of horses, to which we shall return next month, will add to the difficulties which Miss Cole and her colleagues are encountering in getting this shameful traffic stopped, but stopped it must be, though the Committee seem to have allowed themselves to be hoodwinked. Evidence given before the Committee of Enquiry into the Conditions of the Export of Horses for Butchery, proves the great cruelty of this traffic; and the fact that horses were—and probably still are—killed with the knife in certain villages. It is unfortunate, in the cause of truth, that this evidence is published at the prohibitive price of 30s.

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Miss Forbes Robertson asks us to thank all those who offered prayers for her during her recent illness. She was operated upon successfully at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital, and we are glad to say she is about again and on the high road to recovery.

* * * *

We have had the pleasure recently to welcome among us two colleagues from Australia: Miss McMahon and Mrs. Hunter. Miss McMahon is a friend of Miss Vida Goldstein, and worked for suffrage with her. At an "At Home" given by Mrs. Crawford, Miss McMahon told us something about conditions in the Civil Service of Australia in connection with Equal Pay. Both Mrs. Hunter and Miss McMahon have joined St. Joan's S.P.A., and we know that the Alliance has two new friends in the great Dominion. We greatly enjoyed meeting them.

* * * *

Miss Mary Wall represented us at the Dinner given at the Forum Club by the British Commonwealth Leagues in honour of Mrs. McKinnon, substitute delegate for Australia to the Sixth Assembly of the League of Nations.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE,

AND

Editorial Office of "Catholic Citizen":

55 BERNERS STREET, LONDON, W.1. Tel. Museum 4181.

Signed articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Society.

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A Triumph for Morality.

Readers of the *Catholic Citizen* will probably remember that opponents of State Regulation of Vice have been watching anxiously developments in Singapore. The Report* of the Advisory Committee on Social Hygiene recently issued has come as an infinite relief. It is a real triumph for abolitionist principles.

The Advisory Committee, referred to above, was appointed in July 1924, to be "a consultative body formed to advise the Secretary of State on any questions connected with venereal disease or public morality, which he may refer to them for their advice." The first task of this Committee was to study the draft ordinance dealing with venereal disease at Singapore, prepared by the Government of the Straits Settlements for submission to the Legislative Council of the Colony. By this draft ordinance it was proposed to deal with the situation at Singapore by a far-reaching system of State Regulation, including the licensing and medical examination of all prostitutes.

Speakers dealing with this subject have sometimes said that there is no legal definition of the term prostitute. The persons responsible for this shameful ordinance meet this difficulty by branding as a prostitute any woman guilty of a single act of immorality

* First Report of the Advisory Committee on Social Hygiene. (H.M. Stationery Office, 3d. net.)

for remuneration, as the Report says this would lead to intolerable harshness and injustice. Indeed, it fills one with sadness to think of the depths of injustice to which some men will sink in their endeavour to protect the health of immoral men; but we know that the majority of men on reading this ordinance would be as indignant as ourselves. The Advisory Committee, we rejoice to say, are unanimous in condemning it, and strongly recommend that it should not be passed into law. They also condemn the system of State Regulation, apart from moral considerations, as being useless. " . . . State Regulation wherever it has been put to the test, has been marked by its failure to provide a remedy for the evils for which it was designed, and has now almost entirely lost the support of expert medical opinion."

The Report goes on to say that the system has been one of the main contributory causes to the traffic in women.

But the Committee realise that the position in Singapore is serious, and puts forward some useful recommendations:

(1) Social Measures.—(a) That the Government of the Straits Settlements should take all possible measures to improve social conditions at Singapore, and especially as regards (i) immigration of female with male Chinese; (ii) housing; (iii) education; and (iv) recreational facilities. (b) That the Government should appoint a mixed Commission of Europeans, Chinese, and Malays, to inquire into the social and economic conditions of the poorer classes in Singapore.

(2) Medical Measures.—(a) That the question of venereal disease should be regarded as an integral part of the field of preventive medicine, and that the medical service at Singapore should be organised with this end in view; (b) That a scheme should be prepared and developed whereby free facilities for diagnosis and treatment may be available for the whole population.

(3) Legal and Administrative Measures.—(a) That the Government should frame its policy now with a view to making possible, at the earliest practicable date, the suppression of all brothels, whenever their existence is discovered; (b) That steps should be taken at once to increase the *personnel* and extend the powers of the Chinese Protectorate in order that adequate protection may be afforded to all Chinese women and girls, and that similar protection should be given to women of other races.

The Committee are of opinion that: "The effect of the systematic training of young people in their relations to the opposite sex may not have an immediate influence on the existing situation, but we cannot but think it would produce results of immense value for the future." They also refer to the great preventive value of such movements as the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides.

We are grateful to the Committee for their admirable work; we feel that the principles we stand for are safe in their hands.

L. DE ALBERTI.

Our readers will like to know the personnel of the Committee:

Chairman: The Hon. W. Ormsby Gore; Lady Astor, M.P.; Mr. John H. Harris; Colonel D. Harvey, C.M.G., M.D., War Office; Surgeon Commander T. B. Shaw, R.N., M.B., Admiralty; Mr. S. W. Harris, C.B., C.V.O., Home Office; Dr. F. J. H. Coutts, C.B., M.D., Ministry of Health; Mr. A. B. Maclachan, Ministry of Health; Mr. E. B. Turner, Fr. C.S., British Social Hygiene Council; Mrs. C. Neville-Rolfe, O.B.E., British Social Hygiene Council; Dr. Douglas White, M.D., Association for Moral and Social Hygiene; Sir Gilbert Grindle, K.C.S.G., Colonial Office; Dr. A. E. Horn, C.M.G., M.D., Medical Adviser to the Colonial Office; Mr. G. H. Creasy, Colonial Office, Secretary.

Municipal Elections.

The women candidates have done well: one hundred and forty-one Councillors have been elected in London alone. We are glad to say that our chairman, Mrs. V. M. Crawford, and our member, Mrs. Russell, J.P., are among the successful candidates, and Miss Fortey, J.P. (Leicester), has also been elected. We are glad to see that Miss Helen Fraser has also been successful. Among the Catholics we note that Mrs. Hewitt was returned unopposed for Chelsea. We offer all the women councillors our hearty congratulations.

Women in the League of Nations.

We call our readers' attention to the Annual Meeting of the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations, to be held on November 30 (2-30—5-30), at Women's Service House, Marsham Street, Westminster. The Council is composed of twenty-one national societies, including St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, and is doing a very useful work in endeavouring to make effective the clause in the Treaty of Versailles, which declares the equality of men and women within the League. Needless to say, the Council has a very uphill task. The Annual Meeting this year promises to be of special interest, and is open to the public.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

Hon. Secretary—Miss Jervis, 99 Edge Lane Drive, Liverpool.

At our meeting held on October 26, the following resolution was passed and sent to the candidates for the forthcoming election to the City Council: "This Alliance is of the opinion that the women patrols are a necessary part of the preventive work of this city, and urge their immediate stabilisation and an increase in their numbers, so that the parks and public gardens may be more adequately patrolled than at present." Several favourable replies were received.

Our Christmas Sale will be held on December 11 and 12, at 78 Huskisson Street, from 3 to 6 p.m. We hope all members will come and buy their Christmas presents.

We much regret the loss of two good members, Mrs. Comber and Mrs. Smiley, both of whom have left for London.

International Notes.

Equal Rights publishes a portrait and biographical sketch of Miss Jessie Dell, one of the ablest women in the United States to-day, who has just been appointed a Civil Service Commissioner by President Coolidge. It is the highest post ever held by a woman in the Government service. Miss Dell is a life-long suffragist, an ardent worker for Equal Rights, and has behind her an exceptionally brilliant administrative career.

Under the title, "Justice to the Prostitute," the same paper has an article in warm praise of Lady Astor's Bill to repeal our Solicitation laws.

* * * *

A long article in *Die Christliche Frau* gives a singularly interesting account of one of the most learned women of her day, the late Lady Blennerhassett, German by birth and English by marriage, and the friend in her youth of Dollinger and Dupanloup, of Cardinal Newman and Lord Acton. Throughout her life she was a devout Catholic, and it was her faith alone that sustained her throughout the last sorrowful years of her life, for she died in Munich during the war, inevitably separated from her English children.

* * * *

"Half a victory is better than none," writes *Stri Dharma* in reporting that the Indian Assembly has now raised the age of consent for married girls—not to 14, as the people of India desired—but to 13. This, anyhow, is a step in the right direction, and we trust is only a first one. Mahatma Gandhi has written emphatically in favour of the age being raised to 14.

* * * *

To the N.C.W.C. *Bulletin*, the Rev. J. A. Ryan contributes one of the finest and most outspoken appeals to Catholics to work for International Peace that we have read for a long time. Only too often, as he truly says, Catholics "point with pride" to the declarations of Popes and Bishops, but give such declarations little or no practical support. He deplores that in America there are no Catholic peace societies, and that few Catholics are to be found in the many non-Catholic ones, and urges, as a first step, a vast increase in Catholic membership of secular peace organisations.

The Woman Citizen publishes an instructive article by Mary Anderson, Director of the Women's Bureau in the U.S. Department of Labour. It appears that nearly two million married women in the States work "gainfully," and a recent special investigation into their conditions of labour comes to the conclusion that: "There is no doubt that the financial contributions of the working mother insure more of the comforts of life, and it appears very probable that the tone of the family life is raised by her wider interests, outside contacts and less monotonous association with the family group." It is a point of view that the "femme au foyer" advocates are apt to overlook.

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We must congratulate our Australian contemporary, *The Dawn*, on its enlarged and improved appearance in a new yellow cover. The September issue gives a full account of the recent London meeting of the British Commonwealth League, the foundation of which it regards as an event of "the utmost importance." The Editor welcomes with reservations the new scheme for Child Endowment in Queensland as being a help towards "the stabilisation of the Home." By this scheme working-class mothers will receive 5s. a week for each child after the first, the funds to be provided by the employer.

* * * *

La Française makes a vigorous and timely protest against the bull-fight which has quite recently been held near Paris.

V. M. C.

MEETING AT THE EMERSON CLUB.

Members and friends of St. Joan's S.P.A. spent an interesting and pleasant afternoon at the Emerson Club on Saturday, October 24, when Mrs. Beer, M.A., gave a report of the Luxemburg Congress, and Miss Fedden of the N.C.W. Congress at Birmingham, which they had attended respectively as delegates of St. Joan's S.P.A. The chair was taken by Mrs. C. J. Mathew, L.C.C., J.P., who said that she had for long been interested in all the work of St. Joan's S.P.A. It is the first time the Alliance has had the pleasure of welcoming Mrs. Mathew, and we hope to see her often among us.

Reviews.

THE HISTORIC BASIS OF ANGLICANISM. Sands & Co., 6s. net. By Joseph Clayton, F. R. Hist. S. With an Introduction by Very Rev. Fr. Bede Jarrett, O.P., M.A.

Mr. Clayton states in his preface to this valuable book, that "all history is controversial." There are, however, many ways of dealing with controversial matters, and if more writers would follow Mr. Clayton's method, their works would have a better chance of achieving their purpose. Though dealing with the Foundations of the Anglican Communion, Mr. Clayton's facts are never disguised by acrimony or misplaced humour. In these days when so many honest minds are befogged as to the real facts of England's break with Rome, this plain historic statement is of great value. Mr. Clayton shows very clearly that the founders of Anglicanism did not break off with their eyes closed, they knew very well what they were doing: "They were quite aware what the Mass was, they understood the Catholic doctrine of transubstantiation, and when they set to work to abolish the Mass in England, they knew what they were about. Cranmer, Latimer, Ridley, Hooper, and all the new bishops of Edward's reign, avowed in unmistakable sincerity their belief that the Pope was anti-Christ and the Mass idolatry" (p. 75). Rome to those who had left it was an abomination. "The Protestant Reformers suffered no illusion that reconciliation was possible with the Papacy, nor did they imagine that both Catholics and Protestants were alike in possession of the truth."

In the light of historical facts, it is difficult to see how Mr. Clayton's clear statement can be denied.

We have received an interesting Annual Report from the Central Catholic Library, 15 Hawkins Street, Dublin. The Library was founded in 1922 by an Association of Priests and Catholic laymen, under the patronage of the Archbishop of Dublin. It is intended to aid students, journalists, teachers, and professional workers generally. The Association seems very much alive, and amongst its other activities, organises some excellent lectures.

The Annual Report of The Animal Defence and Anti-Vivisection Society (35 Old Bond Street, W. 1), gives an interesting record of hard work in the protection of animals. Whatever one may think of vivisection, the Society's work in many directions should have the support of all lovers of animals. Their campaign for the humane slaughtering of animals and for the suppression of traffic in old horses will be of particular interest to our readers.

GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD FAIR.

All members and friends who were unable to go to the Sale at the Cathedral Hall, will be glad to know that they will have another opportunity for buying their Christmas presents, and at the same time helping the funds of St. Joan's Alliance. We shall have a stall at the Green, White and Gold Fair, on Friday and Saturday, November 20 and 21, at the Central Hall, Westminster, from 3 to 9 p.m.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS.

October 1st to 31st.

	£	s.	d.
*Bain Miss...	5	0	0
Collier, Dr. D. J. ...	4	6	
Donovan, Misses B. and K. ...	5	0	
Fennell Revd. M. ...	1	6	
Franklin, Miss ...	15	0	
*Gordon, Mrs. ...	1	0	0
Hill, W. Scott Esq. ...	1	1	0
*Mason, Miss ...	3	6	
McMahon, Miss ...	5	0	
Mathews, Mrs. Laughton ...	7	6	
*Neill, Mrs. M. F. B. ...	2	0	0
Newman, Mrs. ...	2	6	
Poundall, Mrs. ...	3	0	
*Russell, Mrs. ...	5	0	
Sharples, Miss ...	10	0	
Sloper, Miss ...	2	0	
*Stafford, Miss ...	5	0	
*Willis, Miss ...	2	6	
Minimum Subscriptions ...	6	0	

£12 19 0

There is still time for those who have missed the opportunity of the first Sale to send in their gifts for our stall at the Green, White and Gold Fair at Central Hall, Westminster, on November 19th and 20th. Above all, come early and buy there. This is the best way of helping the Alliance just now. The results of both Sales will be published next month.

G. JEFFERY.

* Donations to Christmas Sale.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE.

NON-PARTY.

Office—55, Berners St., Oxford St., London, W.
Patron: Saint Joan of Arc. Colours: Blue, White & Gold
Organ—"The Catholic Citizen," 2d. monthly.

OBJECT.

To band together Catholics of both sexes, in order to secure the political, social and economic equality between men and women, and to further the work and usefulness of Catholic women as citizens.

MEMBERSHIP.

All Catholic women are eligible as Members, who approve the object and methods, and will pay a minimum annual subscription of 1s. Men are invited to join as Associates, on the same conditions, with the exception that they may not elect or be elected to the Executive.

The International Woman Suffrage News

The Monthly Organ of

THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE,

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GREEN, WHITE & GOLD FAIR

(Organised by the Women's Freedom League)

will be held in the

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St. Joan's Alliance earnestly ask for gifts for their stall.

Please send a Contribution or a Donation in Cash, and come and buy your Christmas Presents at our Stall. ::

Council for the Representation of
Women in the League of Nations.

The Annual Meeting

Women's Service House, 35 Marsham Street, Westminster,

Monday, November 30th, 1925.

Business Session 2-30 p.m., followed by a

Meeting on the Work of the Sixth Assembly of the
League of Nations, 4-15 p.m.

Chairman: Mrs. OGILVIE GORDON, J.P., D.Sc.

Speakers: The DUCHESS OF ATHOLL, M.P.

[British Substitute Delegate to the Sixth Assembly]

Mr. JOHN H. HARRIS.

Admission free. Collection. Both meetings open to the public. Tea may be obtained after the meeting. Price 9d.

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The Catholic Citizens' Parliament,

under the auspices of the Catholic League of South London, Catholic Social Guild, Guild of Our Lady of Ransom, St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, will hold the next

FULL DRESS DEBATE,

On Monday, November 30th, at 8 p.m.

At St. Anne's Settlement Hall,

Harleyford Road, Vauxhall, S.E.

[Near the Kennington Oval and Vauxhall Stations.]

DISCUSSION WILL BE OPENED BY

The Rev. V. McNabb, O.P.,

"The Futility of the Suggested Land Laws."