

WOMEN'S SERVICE
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THE

Catholic Citizen

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

Vol. XV, No. 5.

15th MAY 1929.

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.

GENERAL ELECTION, 1929.

Election Address of the Equal Rights General Election Campaign.

To the Men and Women of the Nation, the Political Parties, and to all Parliamentary Candidates.

For the first time in the history of this country women are voting in a Parliamentary Election on the same terms as men. This great political victory was won after a struggle lasting for more than 60 years. But the fight for the emancipation of women is not over. There are still injustices to be remedied and obstacles to be removed before women are able to take their place side by side with men in the affairs of the nation. The Societies united in the Equal Rights General Election Campaign Committee set forth in this Election Address a number of reforms which are essential to the complete emancipation of women.

I.—EQUAL POLITICAL STATUS.

Women Peers.

We demand as an immediate reform that the right to sit and vote in the House of Lords shall be conferred on Peeresses in their own right, and that this shall be done before any alteration in the constitution of that House so that they may take part in the discussions of any further reform of that House.

We also demand that in any reform of the Second Chamber, men and women shall have equal eligibility and voting rights.

Nationality of Married Women.

We demand that a British woman shall have restored to her the right of retaining

her nationality on marriage with an alien, which was taken from her in 1870; and that, irrespective of marriage, she shall have the same right as a man to retain or change her nationality. The right to be recognised as a citizen in one's own person is the most fundamental of all political rights.

II.—EQUAL ECONOMIC RIGHTS.

GOVERNMENT AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES.

We demand that in the Civil Service, in the Teaching profession, and among all other employees of Local Authorities, women should be paid at the same rate as men for similar or identical work. We demand this on the grounds of justice, efficiency and the maintenance of the standard of living.

Government Service.

Opportunity of entry is unequal. The Diplomatic, the Consular, Indian and Colonial Civil Services, and the Trades Commissioner Service, are closed to women by Order in Council under the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act. These barriers must be removed.

Opportunity of promotion is unequal. This must be remedied.

Pay is unequal. Women Civil Servants are paid at a lower rate than men in the same grade and this notwithstanding that the House of Commons in May 1920 and

August 1921 passed resolutions in favour of equal payment.

The Teaching Profession.

We call upon the Government to take the necessary steps to establish equal pay and equal opportunities for promotion in the Teaching profession. The Public Service of Education is directed by Local Authorities under the control of the Board of Education and the Treasury—the Government therefore is directly responsible for the present inequitable conditions obtaining between men and women teachers. Salaries are differentiated according to sex. Women teachers, having the same qualifications, performing the same duties, and earning the same Government grants as their men colleagues, are paid less than four-fifths of the rate for men teachers. Pensions are based on average salary, and women teachers are further penalised by receiving smaller pensions than men for the same length of service.

Opportunities for promotion are not equal between men and women. Appointments to the headships of mixed schools, administrative posts and to the inspectorate, must be opened to men and women equally. The best candidate, irrespective of sex, should be appointed.

Equality of pay and opportunity are in the best interests of both men and women teachers and of education generally. Providing the open door for ability will raise the standard of competence and will increasingly attract to the teaching profession those who are most fitted to carry on the work of education in this country.

MUNICIPAL SERVICE.

We demand legislation compelling local government bodies to give equal pay for equal work. The Woolwich Borough Council rightly decided to give equal rates of pay to men and women bath and convenience attendants, but the Government Auditor declared it illegal to pay the women at as high a rate as the men doing these same jobs, and by threatening to surcharge the Council—which would entail for its members very severe penalties—compelled them to reduce the women's wages by 19s. a week.

Legislation must make it impossible for the Government Auditor to declare it illegal

for a local authority to pay women the same wages as men for the same job.

Women Police.

We demand that women shall be an integral part of every Police Force in the country, with equal training, equal status and equal pay. It is essential that women police shall have equal opportunities for gaining wide practical experience both of criminal procedure and of all branches of police work.

The recent Report of the Royal Commission on the Police testifies to "the marked success" of Women Police and urges a substantial increase in their numbers throughout the country.

THE EMANCIPATION OF THE INDUSTRIAL WOMAN WAGE EARNER.

We demand that when Trade Boards fix minimum rates of wages, these shall not be lower for women than for men.

We further demand that in industry no legislative regulations and restrictions shall be imposed on women wage earners, which are not imposed on men wage earners. We are not opposed to regulations for industry, but such regulations should apply equally to men and women, that is to say, *they should be based on the nature of the work, and not on the sex of the worker.*

Restrictions on women's work which are not placed on men's work are *not* protection. Forbidding women to do night work when men are not forbidden is *not* protection. These are limitations of women's wage earning opportunities and encourage their exploitation in already over-crowded and under-paid trades. The restrictions and disabilities from which women have suffered in the past have always been *called* protection. The only real protection for wage earning women is equal status and equal pay.

We therefore demand in any Factories Bill:

1. That adult women shall no longer be classed with young persons.
2. That the terms of the Washington Hours Convention shall be put into the Bill so that the 48 hour week and regulations as to overtime and payment therefore shall apply to all adult men and women workers in factories and workshops.

3. That any prohibition or regulation of nightwork shall apply equally to men and women.
4. That the same health welfare and safety provision shall apply to all workers, men as well as women.
5. That the Home Secretary shall no longer have power to place restrictions on women's work which are not at the same time placed on men's.

At present the adult woman is classed in Factory Law with the young person and the child. The recognition of women in such Law as adult human beings with the same personal rights as adult men will be the first steps towards the abolition of the present artificial division between men's work and women's work, and towards the abolition of the present artificial division of wage rates into a "male rate" and a "female rate," irrespective of the similarity or even the identity of the work done.

III.—EQUAL STATUS FOR THE MARRIED WOMAN.

Right to Paid Work.

We demand that a married woman shall decide for herself whether or not she shall engage in paid work, and that the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, which purported to throw open all posts to women irrespective of marriage, shall be made effective. Marriage should not be a disability. Marriage should not deprive a married woman of the rights of a free citizen. At the present time both Law and Regulations penalise a woman because she is married. In the Civil Service, in the Teaching profession, in Local Government work, marriage leads to the dismissal of a woman, however expert and valuable her services may be.

Income Tax of Married Persons.

We demand that the incomes of married persons shall be automatically assessed and taxed separately. Each spouse shall be entitled to the ordinary personal abatements on his or her separate income. They should share between them any marriage and children's abatements.

IV.—EQUAL MORAL STANDARD.

Solicitation Laws.

We demand the abolition of all existing laws dealing with street solicitation, on the ground that these laws are unequal between

men and women, and also unequal between one woman and other, making of one small group of women a class of legal outcasts.

This Committee therefore calls for a simple law on the lines of the Public Places (Order) Bill, first introduced in 1925, under which any person, whether man or woman, wilfully annoying or molesting any other person in any street or public place shall be guilty of an offence. No man or woman should be convicted of such an offence solely on police evidence and the Public Places (Order) Bill therefore contains a definite provision that in all such cases the evidence of the person annoyed or molested is necessary before a conviction can be obtained.

State Regulation of Vice.

We demand the complete abolition within the Empire of all forms of State regulation of prostitution, including registration of prostitutes and toleration of known or licensed brothels and the adoption and active enforcement of laws against traffic in women, procuration, or any similar direction or exploitation of the immorality of others for commercial gain.

V.—EQUAL RIGHTS FOR WOMEN IN THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

We are profoundly dissatisfied with the position of women in connection with the League of Nations and the International Labour Organisation of the League.

The VIIth Clause of the Covenant laid down that: "All positions under or in connection with the League, including the Secretariat, shall be open equally to men and women." This Clause must be made effective.

The British Government should send a woman as full delegate to the Assembly of the League. Hitherto women have only been sent as substitute delegates.

All Commissions of the League should include women members.

In the Secretariat of the League, a few women in administrative posts have had neither the status nor the pay of their men colleagues. There is a growing tendency to dispense with women in these higher posts and to employ them in subordinate positions only. This must be remedied.

Continued on page 45.

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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The General Election.

The *Catholic Citizen* is published this month on the eve of the General Election. We need not urge our readers to use their votes. Many of them have spent some of the best years of their life in fighting for the vote, and they know it to be a valuable weapon.

We publish the Election Address of the Equal Rights General Election Committee, to which St. Joan's S.P.A. is affiliated. We also give a list of questions issued by our own Alliance, many of which are explained in the Address. We ask our members to make use of these questions either by sending them to their respective candidates, or by asking questions on these lines at political meetings. As it has been decided that no candidate shall answer any questions save those received from his constituents, we ask our members to send replies received to Headquarters.

St. Joan's S.P.A., which is composed of members of every shade of political opinion, will give help to women candidates who support our programme, and readers, who have not already done so are asked to send offers of help to Miss Barry at 55 Berners Street, mentioning the candidate (or party) for whom they want to work. Clerical work is also needed, and, of course, funds.

Deputations to Party Leaders.

St. Joan's S.P.A. was represented by Mrs. Laughton Mathews on the deputation to Mr. Ramsey Macdonald on April 15. The Joint Deputation was organised by the Equal Rights General Election Campaign Committee, and the National Union of Societies for

Equal Citizenship. The same questions were raised as by the Deputation received by Mr. Lloyd George, as reported in our last issue. Mrs. Laughton Mathews, on behalf of St. Joan's S.P.A., urged the importance of raising the legal age of marriage. She asked that a Bill on the lines of Lord Buckmaster's Bill now before the the House of Lords be passed into Law without delay, enacting that "marriage between persons either of whom is under the age of sixteen shall be void." Mr. Ramsay Macdonald said that the Labour Party agreed with what the deputation were pressing for and would do their best to carry it out.

The question of Birth Control being again raised by the representative of the N.U.S.E.C. Our representative protested on moral and religious grounds, but not solely on those grounds. Her statement was similar to our official statement in our last issue. Mr. Macdonald said that in the view of the Labour Party this was a matter which should be left to an open vote of the House.

Mr. Macdonald in thanking the Deputation for placing these views before him, said that the Labour Party stands for equality between men and women, for women police, women in the House of Lords, a married woman's right to retain her own nationality, etc.

On April 19th, the Prime Minister received a Deputation organised by the same groups, when the same questions were raised. In reply Mr. Baldwin spoke especially on the question of Equal Pay for Equal Work and the removal of the Marriage Ban in the Civil Service. The Government had already decided to set up a Royal Commission to

investigate these and other important questions. As regards Women Police the Home Secretary had already decided on a substantial increase in the members of Policewomen. The Prime Minister expressed agreement with the principles of raising the minimum age of marriage to 16 years; and as regards information being given on Birth Control said that the objections raised by Mrs. Laughton Mathews, for St. Joan's S.P.A., had the final word at present. There were acute divisions of opinion on this subject amongst the taxpayers and ratepayers who bore the cost of the Maternity and Child Welfare centres, which could not be used for such a controversial purpose without express directions from Parliament.

N.B.—Since the above was written we are glad to say that the Age of Marriage Bill has passed into law, with an amendment allowing the defence that the man had reasonable cause to believe that the girl was over 16.

* * * *

We are delighted to announce that Miss Butler-Bowdon will represent us at the celebrations at Orleans in honour of St. Joan of Arc, and will place a wreath tied with our colours at her shrine. The wreath will bear the inscription: "Homage to St. Joan, our patron, who helped British women to gain enfranchisement. St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, formerly the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society." Thanks to Mlle. Lenoël, our delegate will have a fine view of the procession.

* * * *

We are glad to learn that the Government have granted a site for the statue of Mrs. Pankhurst. It will stand in the Victoria Tower Gardens, in the shadow of the Houses of Parliament. The Prime Minister has promised to unveil the statue.

Congratulations.

We offer our cordial congratulations to our members, Mrs. St. George Huggett, on the birth of a son; and to Councillor Mrs. Leigh, who has been elected chairman of the Kuntsford Urban Council for the 4th time. On May 5, she attended church with members of her Council.

Continued from page 43.

The International Labour Organisation of the League of Nations.

Under Article XXIII of the Covenant of the League, members of the League undertook to create the necessary international organisations "to secure and maintain fair and humane conditions of labour of men, women and children both in their own countries and in all countries to which their commercial and industrial relations extend." Part XIII of the Treaty of Versailles set up for this purpose the International Labour Organisation.

What has the International Labour Organisation done for women?

By its Conventions and Recommendations concerning the Night Work of Women in Industry (1919), the Employment of Women before and after Childbirth (1919) (1921), Protection against Lead Poisoning (1919), the Night Work of Women in Agriculture (1921), the Prohibition of White Lead in Painting (1921), the International Labour Organisation has in many countries secured the imposition of serious restrictions on women's right to engage in paid work.

Article 427 (Part XIII.) of the Treaty of Versailles laid down the principle "that men and women should receive equal remuneration for work of equal value."

What has the International Labour Organisation done to get Equal Pay for Women? Nothing.

The minimum Wage Fixing Machinery Convention adopted by the International Labour Organisation at Geneva in June 1928 is so worded that it is not clear whether the same minimum rates should be fixed for women as for men. This ambiguity must be cleared up and we demand that the British Government shall propose that the Permanent Court of International Justice be asked for an Advisory Opinion.

We further urge that the British Government shall propose the adoption of an Equal Pay Convention and also that it shall take every possible step to secure that all Conventions adopted either by the League of Nations or the International Labour Organisation shall recognise equal rights and liberties for men and women.

[The E.R.G.E.C.C. represents fifteen societies including St. Joan's S.P.A.]

Women Candidates. CONSERVATIVES.

Viscountess Astor, M.P., Plymouth, Sutton; Duchess of Atholl, M.P., Perthshire, West; Miss Margaret Beavan, Everton; Countess of Iveagh, M.P., Southend-on-Sea; Miss M. L. K. Jones, Ardwick; Hon. Mary A. Pickford, Farnworth; Mrs. Helen B. Shaw, Bothwell; Miss Irene Ward, Morpeth.

LABOUR.

Lady Clare Annesley, Bristol, West; Mrs. E. Barton, Nottingham Central; Dr. Ethel Bentham, Islington East; Miss Margaret Bondfield, M.P., Wallsend; Mrs. C. Borrett, Weston-super-Mare; Mrs. Harrison Bell, Luton; Dr. Stella Churchill, Brentford; Mrs. Ruby Davies, Wells; Mrs. Helen Gault, Perth; Mrs. Barbara Ayrton Gould, Northwich; Mrs. Mary Hamilton, Blackburn; Miss Dorothy Jewson, Norwich; Miss H. Keynes, Sussex, Horsham; Miss Jenny Lee, M.P., Lanarkshire North; Miss Susan Lawrence, M.P., East Ham North; Lady Cynthia Mosley, Stoke-on-Trent; Mrs. H. J. Massingham, Hants, Petersfield; Dr. Marion Phillips, Sunderland; Miss Jessie Stephen, Portsmouth South; Miss K. Spurrell, Totnes; Mrs. C. McNab Shaw, Ayr District; Miss Eleanor Stewart, Edinburgh North; Mrs. R. Townsend, Bucks, Wycombe; Miss E. Picton Tuberville, The Wrekin; Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., Middlesbrough East; Miss Florence Widdowson, Rushcliffe; Mrs. C. M. Wadham, Lewisham West; Miss Monica Whateley, St. Albans.

LIBERAL.

Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Hendon; Mrs. Catherine Alderton, Hull, North-West; Mrs. Beatrice Bayfield, Gorton; Miss Barbara Bliss, East Grinstead; Lady Crosfield, Islington, North; Miss E. Edwards, St. Pancras, South-East; Miss Alison Garland, Warrington; Miss Megan Lloyd George, Anglesey; Miss M. Morgan Gibbon, Hackney, South; Miss Mary Grant, Salford, West; Mrs. B. Hornabrook, Birmingham, Deritend; Miss Hester Holland, Hythe; Mrs. K. Hoffman, Norfolk, North; Miss F. L. Josephy, Winchester; Miss Enid Laphorn, Herts, Hitchin; Mrs. C. F. G. Masterman, Wilts, Salisbury; Miss Betty Morgan, Sunderland; Miss M. E. Marshall, Smethwick; Miss Grace Roberts, Glamorgan, Caerphilly; Mrs. Walter Runciman, M.P., Tavistock; Lady Stewart, Kensington, North; Miss H. Schilizzi, Northampton; Miss Ida Swinburne, Surrey, East; Miss Dora West, Bermondsey; Mrs. Wintringham, Lincolnshire, South.

COMMUNISTS.

Mrs. Isobel Brown, Lanarkshire, Motherwell; Miss Helen Crawford, Lanarkshire, Bothwell.

INDEPENDENT.

Miss Eleanor Rathbone, English Combined Universities.

IND. ANTI-SOCIALIST.

Mrs. Hugh Middleton, Wansbeck.

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance.

(NON-PARTY)

General Election Questionnaire, 1929.

If returned to Parliament will you press for:

1.—EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS.

The admission of Peeresses in their own right to a seat and vote in the House of Lords?

2.—EQUAL MORAL STANDARD.

(a) The abolition of the present unjust solicitation laws and the substitution of a law dealing with street solicitation by general legislation against annoyance or molestation, under which the evidence of the person annoyed or molested would be necessary in order to obtain a conviction?

(b) The abolition of all brothels known to the authorities within the jurisdiction of the British Empire?

3.—EQUAL PAY AND OPPORTUNITIES.

(a) Legislation in favour of equal pay for equal work and equal opportunities for training, entry and promotion in the Civil Service?

(b) Abolition of restrictive legislation for women and the basing of all labour regulations and restrictions upon the nature of the work and not upon the sex of the worker?

4.—THE RIGHT OF MARRIED WOMEN.

(a) To retain or change their nationality?

(b) To engage in paid work?

(c) To be separately assessed and taxed?

5.—WOMEN POLICE.

Legislation to make it compulsory on Watch Committees and Standing Joint Committees to appoint a sufficient number of qualified women police?

6.—BIRTH CONTROL.

The continuance of the policy of the Minister of Health in not allowing information on artificial Birth Control to be given at Infant Welfare Centres, which are maintained out of public funds to which people of all opinions are required to contribute?

7.—EDUCATION.

Fair and adequate financial treatment for Catholic elementary and secondary schools?

Mass at St. Patrick's, Soho.

Following our custom at former elections, we have asked for Mass to be offered on polling day, to beg Divine guidance on the electors. The 11-45 Mass at St. Patrick's, Soho, will be offered for this intention on May 30, the feast of Corpus Christi.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

Hon. Secretary: Miss N. S. Parnell, B.A.,
45 Falkner Street, Liverpool.

A very enjoyable Social was held on April 12 at 153 Upper Parliament Street, for which a charge of 1s. was made, in order to augment the proceeds of the Whist Drive. The thanks of the Branch are due to the Committee who provided the refreshments and games, and also to those members who sang and played so delightfully for us. The Hon. Secretary spoke briefly about our work in the forthcoming election.

A corps of paper-sellers, consisting of Miss Johnstone, Mrs. Murphy, Miss Clarke, Miss Scholefield, Miss M. Parnell and Miss Bowden, disposed of large numbers of *Catholic Citizens* outside St. George's Hall on April 14, before the Catholic Emancipation Centenary Meeting.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS.

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Minimum Annual Subscriptions ...	10	0	
	£10	15	6

TREASURER'S NOTE.

With the *General Election* so near at hand, money is specially needed in order that the Alliance may effectively do its work. Will all those members who have not yet sent their *Annual Subscriptions* kindly forward them without delay in order to save unnecessary office work. One more promise of £5 per annum towards the *Rent* has been gratefully received; if two more members will follow this good example we shall be free of anxiety in regard to the *Rent*.

The *Whist Drive* on April 30 was a very enjoyable evening and resulted in a net profit of over £6. Very many thanks to all those who helped so splendidly.

Vera Laughton Mathews,

Hon. Treasurer.

Prize Competition.

In order to raise funds to help with the expenses of our delegates to the Berlin Congress, this Competition is held. The entrance fee is One Shilling, and 20% of the entrance money will go to provide two money prizes. As the Competition is a simple one, it is hoped that every member will enter.

RULES.

1. Write on a piece of paper the twelve missing words in the paragraph below. Each blank represents one word only.
2. Any number of entries may be forwarded, provided that each is accompanied by One Shilling.
3. Envelopes should be marked "Competition," and should reach the offices of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, 55 Berners Street, W.1., not later than first post on Saturday morning, June 1.
4. Name and address of competitor should accompany each entry.
5. The correct answers have been deposited in the Office safe in a sealed envelope.
6. The prizes will be divided in the event of competitors tying for first or second place.

The Congress of the International Suffrage Alliance will be held in — this — St. Joan's S.P.A. is — to send two delegates and two alternate delegates, and — we shall take our full part in this — assembly. This is the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Alliance and since its — the work has grown —. The cause of woman's — has been — in many countries and we now carry our movement forward to its —, namely, full equality of — and opportunity for men and women.

Obituary.

We have learnt with the deepest regret of the death of our member, Miss M. F. Mason. A convert to Catholicism and an ardent feminist, her zeal was an inspiration to us. We heard from her quite recently; her death comes as a shock, and her loss will be greatly felt.—R.I.P.

We much regret that from lack of space we are unable to give a report of the meetings of the International Council of Women held in London, or of the pageant organised by the I.C.W. for the Suffrage Section of which St. Joan's S.P.A. was responsible.

**ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND
POLITICAL ALLIANCE.**

NON-PARTY.

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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.

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Compiled by PHYLLIS C. CHALLONER, M.A. and
VERA LAUGHTON MATTHEWS, M.B.E.,

for

St. John's Social and Political Alliance.

With forewords by MILLICENT GARRETT
FAWCETT, G.B.E., L.L.D., and the RIGHT REV.
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