

THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

Organ of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, 55, Berners Street, London, W.1.

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May 15th, 1921.

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 LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

By ISABEL WILLIS.

It is evident that there exists at the present time no slight amount of hostility to the mere idea of a League of Nations, and a still greater amount of apathy. It would be doing an injustice to the intelligence of the readers of the *Catholic Citizen* to suppose that they are to be included in either of these classes, however little admiration they may have for the actual League as it exists to-day; for we may take it that they realise that there is nothing but a League of Nations (not of Governments, but of *Nations*) to stand between them and the horrors of another war.

Whether this particular League is at the present moment in all ways exactly what such a League ought to be, is not the question. It can be, and perhaps one should say, *must* be changed in some respects; but the great point is that such a body is actually in existence. It is for the people to adapt it to their needs. They must not leave it to their Governments, for already we see Governments planning how to raise fresh armaments and how to get hold of fresh methods for killing more men. Thus they will irritate each other into a new war, and it is the duty of the people to give them such a push as will force them to take another path. The League of Nations is the Parliament of all the peoples, and it is for them to back it up with all their energies. We need not waste time, as too many are doing just now, with uttering feeble lamentations over the failure of our hopes of a better world after the war—such as this

drivel, for instance, which I noticed in a recent number of (I regret to say) a woman's paper. "No promised land, not even a reconstructed Europe, only a wilderness of scarcity and strife, misery and hatred. The League of Nations is like a chain of blue mountains on the horizon, but those hills are far away," &c. As a matter of fact, although hills may appear far away, yet in these days of quick travel, even the most distant are speedily reached, and as for expecting such an evil thing as war to produce anything like the "promised land"—no one who knows anything of the history of previous wars can have expected any better results than we have around us as the result of the late one. No sane person ever supposes a new and complicated machine to work perfectly all at once, it requires careful watching so that any defect may be promptly remedied: that is the case with our machine, the League; but the great fact remains, we have got it. Already it has made a start on one excellent line, for it has begun to deal with the White Slave Traffic, by sending out to all Governments an enquiry as to the means taken, or proposed to be taken, to put a stop to the horrible business. This is preliminary to the Conference on the subject, which the League Council intends to convene during the Summer.

If it should be asked how the people of any particular country, as distinct from their Government, can give support to the League, the answer, as regards our own country at

all events, is very simple. We have the Society called The League of Nations' Union, active and energetic, and meriting the support of every person who would care to see the barriers against war strengthened. The Union has for its President, Lord Grey of Falloden, for its Chairman of Committees, Lord Robert Cecil, and amongst the great body of its Vice-Presidents are H. E. Cardinal Bourne, the heads of other religions in the country, and representative women, such as Mrs. Fawcett and Mrs. Creighton. The Union has many branches all over the country, and membership is increasing daily. Now is the time for more to crowd in, for a great demonstration is to take place, and every man, woman and child who loves justice and freedom must join in it. The demonstration is to take the form of a great National Pilgrimage, starting from certain fixed points at different parts of the country, and culminating in a mass meeting in Hyde Park, on Saturday, June 25th. The pilgrims will start from about sixteen places—from Carlisle, Newcastle, Liverpool, Preston, Harrogate, Hereford, Norwich, Exeter, Bristol, Brighton, Folkestone, Eastbourne, Poole, Bangor, Aberystwith and Pembroke—holding meetings at towns and villages all along the different routes. Taking one of the shortest routes as a specimen, that starting from Eastbourne, we find that it passes through Bexhill, Hastings, Robertsbridge, Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge, Sevenoaks, Bromley and Lewisham, besides numerous villages, before it reaches London, and will occupy over a fortnight. From this we may judge of the extent of the longer routes—such as that from Carlisle, or from Wales. The undertaking is indeed planned on an enormous scale, and volunteers are wanted to help in all manner of ways. At each place that has a branch of the Union, sub-committees are now formed to make all arrangements for speakers, bands, singers, processions, and for hospitality to the pilgrims as they pass through. These sub-committees in most places will consist almost entirely of women, and those women who took part in the great National Suffrage Demonstration in 1913 will find themselves working on familiar lines. Full information can be had from the London office of the Pilgrimage Sub-Committee, 15, Grosvenor Crescent, S.W.1. Each per-

son taking part in the pilgrimage will be required to wear a special badge and to carry a pennon. Patterns of these will be supplied from the London Sub-Committee, but they will have to be made locally, and speaking generally we may say that every local branch will be left free to make its own arrangements, as well as to defray its own expenses. Although it is not to be expected that everyone who takes part will be able to march the whole way, yet for those who can do so what a splendid holiday tour this demonstration offers! For those starting from distant Newcastle there will be more than a month's marching before London is reached, through Durham, with its glorious cathedral, and many another interesting or historic town, and all the time there will be fresh interests in the pilgrimage itself—new pilgrims falling in, exciting welcomes from sympathisers, and cheerful hospitality offered and accepted—not to speak of all the little incidents of the road and the sight of the country at its best. This particular contingent starts on the 10th May, so five weeks are spent en route before reaching Hyde Park on June 25th. The one starting from Eastbourne is planned to do so on June 8th, the line being one of the shortest, but it is also one of the most beautiful, passing through delightful country parts of Sussex and Kent, all green and wooded.

The Sundays are always to be kept as rest days, and it is hoped that wherever the pilgrims may be halted, on those days special sermons may be preached in many of the Churches setting forth the great objects of the League of Nations.

Whether or not many pilgrims may be found to march the entire distance, the great point is that there must be a continuous unbroken chain from each starting place to London, and there must be few indeed who cannot arrange either to walk a little way in the procession—say from their own town or village to the next—or perhaps just to meet and welcome and fall in with the pilgrims as they arrive, or even to make their own way by train to London and so at least join in the great gathering in Hyde Park. The one end to be achieved is that the spirit existing all over the country in favour of peace shall be

(continued on page 41.)

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Will any of our members or readers, who are able to assist in the London demonstration of the League of Nations' Union to be held in Hyde Park on June 25th, send their names and addresses to Mrs. Arthur Croxton, M.B.E., League of Nations' Union, 15, Grosvenor Crescent, S.W.1.

* * * *

Sunday, May 1st, the Silver Jubilee of the Episcopal Consecration of His Eminence Cardinal Bourne, was a day of rejoicing among English Catholics. The C.W.S.S. was among the innumerable societies to send messages of congratulation.

* * * *

The C.W.S.S. has sent a letter to the Prime Minister, Home Secretary and Ministry of Health, drawing their attention to the urgent need for appointing a woman representative at the League of Nations Conference on Traffic in Women and Children, to be held in Geneva on June 30th.

* * * *

The C.W.S.S. has also written to Sir Eric Drummond urging that women representing the medical, nursing and lay interests should be appointed to the Temporary Standing Committee which has been set up pending the establishment of the International Health Commission of the League of Nations. In common with many other societies, we feel that the questions to be considered by this Committee are of such vital importance to women that they cannot be dealt with adequately by any body on which women are not directly represented.

* * * *

The Proportional Representation Bill was defeated in the House of Commons by 186 votes to 87, which no doubt settles its fate during the life of this Parliament. And yet the system is in use in a number of countries and has many advantages as Miss Rosamund Smith recently pointed out in these columns. It is felt in many quarters that a system of P.R. would help to allay the unrest prevailing in the country, it is some comfort to a minority to know that its views are being expressed in the House of Commons; and that P.R. would give us a more representative Parliament is unquestioned.

The Plumage Bill was passed by an overwhelming majority of five to one in spite of some opposition. Of Colonel Archer Shee we need only say his speech in opposing the bill was a preposterous contribution to a serious debate. The Bill has a strong backing in the country, and since the Government again expressed a wish that it should be passed, is it too sanguine to hope that it will ultimately reach the Statute Book?

* * * *

The *Daily News* is to be congratulated on its energetic campaign in defence of worn-out horses, in which a disgraceful traffic is carried on. The allegations are fully vindicated in a report issued by the Board of Agriculture of the result of the investigations of a veterinary inspector sent to the continent to enquire into the charges. All the Societies interested in the defence of the horses seem to be agreed that the only remedy is a heavy export tax. A great meeting organised by Our Dumb Friends' League, on the suggestion of the *Daily News* is to be held at the Albert Hall, on Saturday, May 21st, in the afternoon. For a nation that prides itself on its humanity the traffic is a disgrace.

* * * *

As we go to press we learn that the Pilgrimage plans have been modified as regards fixed routes, but it is hoped that demonstrations will be carried out everywhere. The great rally in Hyde Park will take place as arranged.

(continued from page 40.)

mobilised and display itself in concrete form. As a writer in a recent number of *The Woman's Leader* puts it, there "are thousands and thousands of people in this country who are wholly convinced that the hope for the future of the world lies not in strife, but in concord. What threatens the League is not the fierceness of its enemies, but the apathy and cowardice of its friends. If the League is to live it must have friends as strong, as resourceful, more courageous than its enemies, and these friends must make it a household word in every nation."

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.

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

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

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The Bishop of London's Bill.

CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT.

In reply to Lady Astor's question whether the Government intended to adopt and to introduce into the House of Commons the Bishop of London's Criminal Law Amendment Bill in view of the wide support it had received throughout the country, Mr. Chamberlain said that if the Bill could be treated as a non-controversial measure, the Government would endeavour to facilitate its passage towards the end of the Session.

The answer means that if the supporters of the Bill are sufficiently in earnest, the Bill will become law this session. It also means that controversial amendments will wreck the Bill. It will be remembered that yielding to pressure in the House of Lords, the Bishop withdrew the clause raising the age of consent and for the protection of boys, and it may be impossible to re-insert these in the House of Commons, without wrecking the Bill. The question then arises whether the Bill is worth supporting without these clauses. The Hon. Press Secretary of the C.W.S.S. has already written to the Catholic papers stating the view of the society on this question. Always hoping that the clauses may be re-inserted without endangering the Bill, yet if that is found impossible, we consider, after consultation with experts, that the Bill deserves the support of all, who desire to see children and young girls protected from vicious men. It contains some valuable clauses; it abolishes the defence of reasonable cause to believe that the girl was over the protected age; it extends the time in which proceedings may be taken; it lays down that "it shall be no defence to a charge

or indictment for an indecent assault on a child or young person under the age of sixteen to prove that he or she consented to the act of indecency." It increases the penalties against keepers of brothels; it repeals the clause in the Punishment of Incest Act which requires that all proceedings under the Act are to be held in camera. All that is to the good, and while wishing the Bill went still further, we hope that it may soon pass into law. We are wearied with the long wrangle over Government Criminal Law Amendment Bills which has held up legislation during the past years. It is improbable that objectionable clauses will be introduced, for the Government seems to have realised at last that it is impossible to pass legislation on a matter so closely affecting women, in the teeth of the organised opposition of the women of the country. The Association for Moral and Social Hygiene asks all societies to bring every pressure they can upon local M.P.'s and the Home Secretary to obtain facilities for the Bill as soon as possible. Members and friends of the C.W.S.S. are asked to help in lobbying, especially among Catholic Members of Parliament.

L. DE ALBERTI.

We call the attention of our readers to the C.W.S.S. Mock Election to be held at Bedford College, by kind permission of the Council, on Saturday, June 4th, at 3 p.m. The election will be under the P.R. system. After tea there will be an opportunity of seeing the grounds of the College.

A FRENCH FEMINIST GATHERING.

By COUNCILLOR V. M. CRAWFORD.

The "journées sociales" of the Action Sociale de la Femme (to which our Society has recently become affiliated) are undoubtedly taking on an extension which will render them instructive international events for Catholic Women. Those who had been present last year assured me that the arrangements this year were in every way superior, especially on the social side, affording far greater facilities for delegates to make friends and exchange views. A sensible arrangement was that no morning meetings were attempted, the congressists assembling every afternoon for a long *séance* at 2-30. Another feature which we in England would approve less was that the chairman was invariably a man. It is only fair to add, however, that *ces messieurs*, who included among them M. Georges Goyau, fulfilled their task with conspicuous tact and skill. The well-known educational centre of Le Foyer in the rue Vaneau provided a most convenient meeting-place and the young ladies of the *école ménagère* cooked excellent lunches and delicious cakes for tea each day for the congressists. The very elegant "thé," however which was offered to the foreign delegates on the Sunday afternoon and which proved a most enjoyable function, took place in the large rooms of the Action Sociale de la Femme in the Avenue George V.

The first regular meeting, at which, unfortunately, I was not able to be present, on Saturday afternoon dealing with the family attracted, I was told, a crowded audience, the most noteworthy feature being an address by Mme. Sainte-Marie-Perrin, a daughter of René Bazin, on French culture, in which she dwelt admirably on the need for higher culture for women even though they wish to devote themselves to domestic duties and further that such culture should be based on the noblest French traditions.

Monday's meeting was devoted to the difficult problem of the economic crisis and one must admit that the discussion and papers only touched the fringe of the subject. We heard about women's syndicates and insurance and duties of employers and employed but the fundamental causes which to-day are producing such appalling unem-

ployment throughout Europe lay too deep below the surface for facile discussion. Princess Christina Giustiniani Bandini, a foundress of the Italian Catholic Women's Union, intervened on this and other occasions with great effect, explaining Italian needs and schemes of reform. She has a wide grasp of social questions and as the only Italian delegate naturally took an important part in the discussions. Dutch and Spanish delegates also joined in and Melle. Klotz, from Luxemburg, but the Belgian delegates had all been kept at home to vote for the first time in the Municipal elections on the Sunday, a reason the adequacy of which appealed to us all.

It was after a paper by Mdlle. Graaf on the policy of Catholic feminine associations—a paper, by the way, in which the *sursalaire familial* was warmly commended as a Catholic and anti-socialist remedy for an admitted evil—that I was called on to expound the views of the C.W.S.S. on women's right to work and to decide for themselves the conditions and restrictions to such work. The points raised were discussed with great interest both in public and private by those present, and the necessity for women being consulted as to restrictive legislation was widely admitted, though perhaps the English position that women must enjoy the right to full political representation before any such legislation is brought forward was not fully appreciated. The French tendency is so strongly in favour of restrictive legislation in the supposed interests of family life, that an indication of the English suffragist attitude was certainly timely.

Tuesday's meeting led off with a really brilliant speech admirably delivered by Mdlle. Moreau, avocat à la Cour d' Appel, explaining various legal disabilities under which French women suffer: the loss of her nationality by marriage, her lack of rights over her children, and her disabilities as a deserted wife. If there are many women advocates as accomplished as Mdlle. Moreau, France may well congratulate herself on having admitted them to the Bar.

The next event was the clever humorous

(Continued on page 44).

International Notes.

We have received from Spain a copy of a letter from the Holy Father to the Acción Católica de la Mujer, in which the Pope, approving of the statutes of that society and of its work, speaks of the new status of woman, and her new mission in the world. We shall return to this later. Meanwhile we continue to receive other evidence of the immense strides the woman's movement is making among the Catholics of Spain.

From the "Catholic Times" we learn that the coming of women into public life has been a blessing to Portugal. Catholic women there, likewise with the approval of the Pope, have formed a society called "The League of Christian Social Action," which publishes a monthly review dealing with social and religious questions affecting the welfare of the Portuguese masses. But there is as yet only one feminist review in Portugal, and that is "Alma Feminina," the organ of the National Council of Portuguese women, which has been in existence six years, the longest career which any feminist paper has so far had in Portugal. While wishing it long life, one may wish it had other companions to help in spreading the light of feminism. We are exchanging the "Catholic Citizen" with "Alma Feminina."

"Jus Suffragii" for April reports that the Catholic Women's Union of Italy, under the special patronage and guidance of the Holy See, has largely increased its membership, and at the congress held in Rome recently, put forth a well thought-out programme, giving prominence to the urgent necessity of the training of women to take their part in schemes of public benevolence, and by a close study of State Institutions, to fit themselves for the franchise.

The consolidation of family life and the resistance to divorce are points also urged, as is the importance of all matters touching education.

Belgian women have voted for the first time in municipal elections.

In Western Australia Mrs. Cowan has been returned to the Legislature Council, defeating the Attorney General. She is the first woman M.P.

We hear from Newfoundland that the suffrage campaign is in full swing in the colony. A petition has been presented to the House of Assembly. The Pope's message to Miss Christitch is being published as an encouragement to Catholics, and the outlook is promising.

L. DE A.

(Continued from page 43).

speech of Mme. Chotard in favour of Women Suffrage. It was received with enthusiastic applause, a really happy sign of the times.

It is only since the meeting of the International Alliance at Geneva last year that this newest Suffrage Society for French Catholic women has been founded; it is linked on to the Action Sociale de la Femme, using their offices, and with so keen and competent a woman as Mme. Chotard for general secretary, it promises to play an important part in the final struggle for the suffrage that French women are preparing to make.

Immediately after her speech I was called on to read the letter from Miss FitzGerald, announcing her inability to be present. It was received with the greatest regret, but indeed from the first her many friends had expressed to me their great disappointment at her non-appearance. I was able to add some information as to the work that still lies before our Suffrage Societies, and Middle Klotz followed with testimony as to results in Luxemburg. In the discussion that followed one lady suggested that in order to placate the Senate, women should be willing to accept the deferring of the vote to their 25th year, there being, it was stated, over 2,000,000 more women than men in France owing to the war. Another member urged the *vote familial*, a truly lamentable scheme to give the *father* of the family an extra vote for every child his wife bears him, allowing the mother one only. Happily I hear there is little chance of this scheme being adopted. The general impression left by the discussion was that Catholic women are getting far keener than they were over the Suffrage question, as indeed all serious students of our social conditions must become.

The "journées sociales" ended appropriately with a reception by Cardinal Dubois of the committee and the foreign delegates to all of whom he addressed words of encouragement.

Why Not Begin at the Beginning?

In these days when so much is talked of and done to secure better conditions for the children of the people and to reduce the death rate among infants, it is almost incredible that a law passed ostensibly with this object as long ago as 1915—the Milk and Dairies Act, that is—should be practically a "dead letter," and especially since recent investigation proves only too clearly the need for its enforcement.

The following account has just been published. (April 26th) :—

"A bacteriological examination of 50 samples of milk, carried out by Dr. Teale, of University Cottage Hospital for St. Pancras Borough Council, reveals serious contaminations in the milk ordinarily used in that district. The medical officer states (upon the analyst's report), that the 18 samples of farmers' milk delivered at Railway Stations 'are almost without exception very bad . . . and samples taken from milk-shops and on milk rounds are 'definitely worse,' indicating a further stage in the bad methods of transport and storage, lack of cleanliness, and the keeping of the milk at too high a temperature."

Moreover, the Public Health Committee state in their Report that three out of four "pasteurised" samples were found to be *not* effectually pasteurised.

This question of a pure milk supply goes to the root of the Infant Welfare problem, and of what use are clinics and welfare centres and medical examinations in Elementary Schools, if this preliminary and fundamental condition be not secured beyond all doubt? The evil, too, is not confined to St. Pancras. In one of the large industrial cities of the North, for instance, the milk supplied at the Corporation Depot to poor mothers sent from the clinics, has been, on several occasions, actually sour when served!

It is some comfort to know that the St. Pancras authorities have "made representations to the Government that, in the interests of a pure milk supply, the provisions of the Milk and Dairies Act of 1915 should be *strictly enforced*." And surely, when there are more women in Parliament, laws for the

benefit of infants and children will be passed more speedily, and once passed, we shall not wait 6 years for their enforcement.

E. C. HUGHES.

Conference of Women convened by Lady Astor.

The second conference of women's organisations was held at Lady Astor's house on April 13th, when it was decided to form a Consultative Committee of all nationally organised associations, composed wholly or partly of women. It was also decided to raise a 'Flying Column Fund' for the purpose of organising educational campaigns in the constituencies of Members of Parliament who hinder the progress of women's causes in the House of Commons. Lady Astor is also holding monthly At-Homes to enable representatives of women's societies to meet Members of Parliament.

Whether of Lady Astor's party or opposed to it, all feminists must be profoundly grateful to her for her indefatigable zeal in the interests of women both in the House of Commons and outside of it.

A New Appeal.

We do not wish to conceal from our members the fact that the C.W.S.S. is in a most critical position financially. We share this in common with almost every organisation throughout the country. Money is an immediate and absolute necessity if the Society is not to close down.

We have tried many forms of appeal, we now make one in which every single reader can join. To-day (May 15th), on the octave of the feast of our Patron, St. Joan of Arc, we beg everyone to ask her most earnestly to obtain for us the necessary funds, if, as we trust, the work of the C.W.S.S. helps to further in some small degree the Kingdom of God on earth.

GABRIELLE JEFFERY.

Advancing Women, reviewed in our last issue, is published by Daniel O'Connor, 3/6.

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LECTURES. WEDNESDAYS, 8-15 P.M.

May 18th, "Old London." Mr. WILLIAM MARTIN, LL.D. Chairman—Mr. J. Wells Thatcher (Barrister-at-Law).

May 25th, "The League of Nations Pilgrimage." Mrs. J. SKELTON. Chairman—

June 1st, Musical Evening.

June 8th, "The Mother's Defence League." Miss NINA BOYLE. Chairman—Mrs. Cecil Chesterton.

June 15th, "The Modern Novel." Mr. ALIC WAUGH. Chairman—Miss Olga Hartley.

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May 25th. Speaker: Miss LIND-AL-HAGEBY.
Subject: "The Principle and Practice of dismissing Married Women."

June 1st. Speaker: Miss EDITH BEESLEY. Subject: "Saving Schemes." Chair: Mrs. Northcroft.

June 8th. To be announced. For particulars see "The Vote."

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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.

METHODS.

1. Strictly non-party
2. Active propaganda by political and educational means.

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.

Catholic Women's Suffrage Society.

A MOCK ELECTION

will be held (by kind permission of the
Council of Bedford College)

BEDFORD COLLEGE, REGENT'S
PARK, N.W.

On SATURDAY, JUNE 4, at 3 p.m.

Miss KATHLEEN FITZGERALD, B.A., in the chair
Miss ELSIE MORTON, of the Proportional Representation Society, will explain the P.R. system on which the election will be conducted.

Candidates:

Coalition Unionist
Coalition Liberal	.. Miss C. M. Gordon, M.A.
Free Liberal Miss A. L. Petty
Independent Miss M. Havers
Labour Miss B. O'Kelly
Nationalist Miss Moclair
Sinn Fein Mrs. Warren Jones

Entrance Free. Tea 9d.
Declaration of Poll, 5-15 p.m.

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