

THE
CATHOLIC CITIZEN

VOLUME XI, 1925.



ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE,
55 BERNERS STREET, LONDON, W.1.

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WOMEN'S SERVICE

FILE COPY

NOT TO BE TAKEN AWAY

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. XI, No. 1.

JANUARY 15th, 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.

Ten Years of Change.

By LEONORA DE ALBERTI.

Ten years have elapsed since the birth of our paper, *The Catholic Suffragist*, as it was then christened. The appearance of a new suffrage paper at the height of the war caused some stir even outside suffrage circles. Admirers had a smile of pity for the idealists who dared to launch a propaganda paper with a capital of £30 in the midst of a European War. An enemy boldly prophesied that one number might appear, but never a second.

The new paper had a triumphant send-off, the introductory article, entitled, "The Catholic Suffragist," being contributed by the late Mrs. Meynell, whose summing up of the ideals of the suffrage movement, was a sufficient apologia, if one were needed, for the appearance of a new suffrage paper at so critical a moment. "The production in war time of a new paper dedicated to the cause of Votes for Women should remind us that though thousands are suffering acutely, splendidly, and conspicuously, millions are suffering chronically, inconspicuously, and with little hope, evils against which the whole Suffrage movement has set its face. Crime has been lessened by the War, we hear; but we cannot hope that sin has been lessened. And the difficult and arduous work of the women reformers is essentially and fundamentally a moral work. A Catholic suffragist woman is a suffragist on graver grounds and with weightier reasons than any other suffragist in England. In a time of war ours is a cause of peace." . . .

A glance through the files of the *Catholic Suffragist* will reveal to any doubter how right were those who felt that the war was a reason the more for suffragists to stick to their posts, rather than to desert them.

The attempt to revive the C.D. Acts, the notorious Regulation 40 D; the infamy of Cayeux; the lying attacks upon soldiers' wives; the attempt to spy on them and administer their allowances for them—all these dangers suffragists met and countered; to say nothing of the danger of a Franchise Bill being passed to meet the electoral difficulties the war had created, a Bill which, excluding women, would have left them for another generation in the wilderness.

But all this is of the past, and it is of the changing years that I was to speak; and great changes there have been.

First and foremost we have seen the Representation of the People Bill become law, enfranchising women over thirty on certain qualifications—about six million women in all. On the passing of the Bill our paper was re-christened and became *The Catholic Citizen*. We have seen the Bill making women eligible for Parliament triumphantly passed. We have lived to see women enter the sacred precincts of Westminster. Who among us, when picketing the House of Commons in years past, ever thought to see the day when the first woman M.P. would take her seat in the Mother of Parliaments. We have seen women barristers, and women jurors, and women police.

We have seen, for what it is worth, the passing into law of the Sex Disqualification Removal Bill, which provides that a person shall not be disqualified by sex or marriage from the exercise of any public function, or from being appointed to any civil or judicial office or post, or from entering any civil or judicial office or post. To this a sub-clause was added safeguarding the male preserves of the Civil Service, thus preventing the Bill from removing inequalities, that weigh particularly heavily upon women. Mr. John Hills, writing on this subject, in the *Women's Leader*, said: "When the Act for removing Sex Disqualification was debated last Autumn (of 1919), the gods who mock at mankind must have held high revel. The Minister in charge was one of the most single-minded members of the Government, an able man with a shrewd head and a kind heart. The House was honestly anxious to do the right thing. And yet the result was a laughable travesty of equality in that vital part of the Act dealing with Government service, with its immense potentialities, carrying with it, as in future it must, not only the vast Municipal services, but even greater opportunities given by quasi-public bodies such as railways, water companies, and lighting companies. In all these occupations, expressly or by implication, the dice are loaded against women. And this was done by a Minister and by a House who intended the very opposite."

The League of Nations Covenant recognises the principle of the equality of the sexes, but women will never take their proper position in the League until they have won equality at home.

For instance in spite of the persistent efforts of the Council for the Representation of Women of Women in the League of Nations, to which St. Joan's S.P.A. is affiliated, no woman has been included in the Commission which is to investigate the whole question of Slavery. And yet that Commission will have to deal with such matters as domestic slavery; acquisition of girls by purchase disguised as dowry; adoption of children with a view to enslavement, and so on.

The excuse will be given that the men serving on the committee have expert knowledge of the

territories where slavery exists, but it is evident that questions affecting women so closely should not have been left to men alone to solve.

But on looking back on these ten years and seeing the marvels which have come to pass, what may we not yet live to see! We may even see a Sex Disqualification Removal Bill, which does actually remove inequalities, and a League of Nations in which both sexes and all nations find equality.

Don Sturzo.

In welcoming Don Sturzo at the Dinner given by the Committee in his honour, our chairman, Miss FitzGerald, said that the Committee felt they were there to represent all members of St. Joan's S.P.A., who, had it been possible, would have liked to be present to welcome the distinguished priest and politician, who was a keen supporter of suffrage. Don Sturzo, in replying, said that he had always believed in woman suffrage, especially because the same educational and spiritual influence exercised by women in the family, was needed in public life. Just as there were men in religion who felt it their duty to bring religion into public life, so woman had, as it were, a sacerdotal duty to bring the qualities she stands for in the home into national and international life.

Don Sturzo also paid a visit to 55 Berners Street. He gave an interesting account of the Popular Party, and stated that Woman Suffrage is an integral part of its programme. There is an active women's section in the Party, and a considerable number of women in the affiliated trade unions.

It will be remembered that the Popular Party sent a fraternal delegate to the I.W.S.A. Congress in Rome, 1923.

FOR MEMBERS ONLY.

The Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 14, 1925. Resolutions for the Agenda and nominations for the Committee, duly proposed and seconded, must reach 55 Berners Street, London, W. 1, not later than February 2. No nominations can be accepted unless the consent of the nominee shall have been previously obtained.

Notes and Comments.

We offer our cordial congratulations to Dame Millicent Fawcett on the honour recently conferred on her. It has been long felt that Mrs. Fawcett's great services to women and to her country should be recognised. The Government's action in including Mrs. Fawcett in the Honours' List has given genuine pleasure to women societies, and to many outside of those societies.

* * * *

To Dame Ellen Terry and Dame Louisa Aldrich-Blake we also offer hearty congratulations. At the same time we shall be glad when women who have rendered distinguished service to their country, can receive higher honours than those at present open to them. There are many inequalities yet to be removed.

* * * *

The following resolution was passed by the Consultative Committee of Women's Organisations, proposed by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, and seconded by St. Joan's S.P.A.:

"That the constituent Societies of the Consultative Committee welcome the reference in the King's Speech to the Government's intention to introduce legislation this session dealing with the Guardianship of Children, Separation and Maintenance Orders, Illegitimacy and Probation. They express the earnest hope that the Bill to be introduced on the Guardianship of Children will give a real equality between parents. They deeply regret, however, the exclusion from the Speech of a reference of any kind to Equal Franchise. They also deplore that the only reference to Widows' Pensions was with regard to an Enquiry into the "possibility" of their inclusion in existing systems of insurance. They, therefore, call upon the Prime Minister immediately after the reassembling of Parliament to appoint the "Conference of all parties" promised by him during the Election campaign, to consider the question of Equal Franchise. They also call upon him to bring the question of Widows' Pensions before the House at an early date.

The omission from the King's Speech of any mention of Equal Franchise, was warmly taken up by Mr. Pethick Lawrence and Miss Wilkinson. The latter in a fine maiden speech, pointed out that in the industrial world it was the voteless women who were chiefly penalised by labour conditions. Mr. Lawrence also emphasised the fact that a large body of industrial women were excluded by the age limit from citizenship, and other women, over thirty, by an unsound method of qualification, which does not apply to men.

We are grateful to both champions for their advocacy of Equal Franchise.

* * * *

Mrs. Hutton writes to us from Newfoundland that suffragists there are very busy. The Prime Minister, Mr. Monroe, has promised to bring in a Bill to give votes to women, and the Leader of the Opposition has promised to support it. Suffragists are urging women to pack the House of Assembly on the day the Session opens, and on the day the Bill comes up. They are hopeful of success for the Bill, which, however, will not give women eligibility, but no doubt when the vote is won, the rest will soon follow.

We wish our fellow suffragists of Newfoundland good luck.

* * * *

Women Societies are urging the Government to reconsider the decision to remove from the House of Commons the portrait representing the introduction of the first woman M.P. St. Joan's S.P.A. supported the resolution to that effect passed by the Consultative Committee. The Alliance also wrote to the Prime Minister on this question.

* * * *

We are glad to hear from Mrs. John Scott, of Montreal, that she finds the *Catholic Citizen* very interesting and extremely useful in the Catholic Province of Quebec. She says she would not be without it for anything. Mrs. Scott sends us some interesting leaflets in French and English, which should help forward the conversion to suffrage of the Catholics of Quebec.

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.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

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MISS WHATELY.

MISS ISABEL WILLIS, Hon. Press Secretary.

International Notes.

The *Mouvement Féministe* (Geneva) supplies some trustworthy figures as to the German women returned to the new Reichstag. They were far more fortunate than our own candidates. At least 37 women have been returned, of whom 10 sat in the previous Chamber. Of these only four belong to the Catholic Centre Party, while seven are Communists, 17 Socialists, and the rest are distributed among the remaining groups.

* * * *

In pleading for woman's freedom to develop her religious vocation, as being an essential part of women's rights, Georges Goyau, in *La Française*, recalls the interesting fact that in 1848 the negroes of French Guiana, on being enfranchised, announced their desire to elect as their representative Mère Jahouvey, the devoted missionary nun—soon to be declared Venerable—who had laboured for years among them. They could not be made to understand why the law did not permit this!

* * * *

Another article describes the splendid progress that girls' education is making in Persia, despite many obstacles, and relates how, towards the end of last century, a clever Persian girl, determined to educate herself, was allowed by her mother to don boy's clothes and accompany her brother to school. She did this successfully for five years without detection, and at fourteen became the virtual head of the first girls' school to be opened in Teheran. To-day

there are girls' elementary schools in all the chief towns of Persia, and in Teheran there is now also a girls' secondary school with a course of studies covering nine years.

* * * *

Although only one woman—Mrs. Norton—was returned to Congress, *Equal Rights* reports that considerable progress was made at the recent General Election in returning women to the various State Legislatures. Altogether 88 women candidates were successful—a very encouraging result. Moreover one woman, Mrs. Knapp, has been elected Secretary of State for New York.

* * * *

A double number of *La Démocratie*, the monthly organ of the Jeune République, consists of a full and admirably edited report of the Fourth Democratic International Congress held in London last September.

* * * *

Judging from an article in *Le Féminisme Chrétien*, the servant problem in Belgium is even more acute than here. Melle Van den Plas gives some sensible advice to her compatriots, and seems to see the most promising remedy in a system of lady-helps, and also perhaps in some form of a Third Order of St. Martha, the members of which would only undertake domestic service with mothers of families.

* * * *

The quarterly *Correspondance Internationale* of the Action Populaire continues to be a

most useful store-house of information concerning all sorts of Catholic *œuvres* and societies, especially those of an educational nature.

* * * *

Professor Mary Hayden has been elected President of the National Council of Women of Ireland.

V. M. C.

Reviews.

THE HUMAN SOUL AND ITS RELATIONS WITH OTHER SPIRITS. By Dom Anscar Vonier, O.S.B., Abbot of St. Michael's Abbey, Buckfast. (Third edition. Herder, 7s. 6d.)

It is interesting to see how St. Thomas Aquinas is coming into his own. While the Victorians, for the most part, were willing to take their belief or unbelief from ready-made formulas, people of to-day want to probe deeper and to understand. There is a general tendency to return to metaphysics, and, among Catholics, the educated laity, in ever increasing numbers, are seeking a sounder intellectual framework for their faith in the study of the theological teachings of the great masters.

For all these reasons the present book, written in the spirit of St. Thomas, is doubly welcome and valuable. It sets forth, with a simplicity born of great erudition, in clear, plain words, the main teachings of the Church about the human soul, its nature, its end, its place in the Cosmos, its relation to matter, its relations with God and the Angels. It penetrates with the clear light of Thomist philosophy such regions of shadowy speculation as the hereafter, the state of the disembodied soul, the nature of its knowledge, and the existence of a "Middle State." There is a particularly interesting chapter on the burning question of Spiritualism, discussed with that intellectual probity that is the stamp of the true Thomist.

In short, this is a book bringing clear understanding of much that is as a rule vaguely and insufficiently understood, throwing light on many things that are obscure, and showing forth the adequacy, the wisdom, the wide humanity and essential reasonableness of Catholic philosophy.

BARBARA CARTER.

DAILY MISSAL WITH VESPERS FOR SUNDAYS AND FEASTS. By Dom Gaspar Lefebvre, O.S.B., of the Abbey of St. André, Lophem. Published by the Liturgical Apostolate. (From 12s. 6d.) 10 Red Lion Passage, W.C. 1.

We have here the English translation of the famous missal of the Belgian Benedictines. Finely printed, charmingly and copiously illustrated, in small compass, this book is a veritable liturgical encyclopædia. There is a full and well worded explanation of every ceremony, its symbolism, history, and doctrinal significance; it has a short biography of every saint, and a special supplement for the saints of England and Wales; it contains, in addition to Mass for every day in the year, Prime, Vespers, and Compline, with the music of the principal chants and canticles in modern notation. It is truly a monumental work; with its calendar of festivals for every part of the globe, its prayers for every conceivable occasion—for a King, for an Emperor—lest Emperor there be—for a Republic; prayers for use in time of cattle plague, or in time of earthquake, etc., etc.: it seems superior to all considerations of space or time. The translation, which, for passages from the Scriptures, follows the Douai Bible, is uniformly excellent. This book will be coveted by every lover of the liturgy.

LITURGICAL APOSTOLATE WRITING BLOCKS. (1) *Festivals*; (2) *Saints*. 10 Red Lion Passage, W.C. 1.

Each sheet of these blocks is headed by one of René de Cramer's illustrations of the Daily Missal. The artist, with a keen historical and liturgical sense, has a fine feeling for decoration, and grace and delicacy in the treatment of his subjects, so that these blocks have real artistic value.

BARBARA CARTER.

We omitted to mention in our last issue that the Report of the International Council of Women may be obtained from Fru Backer, Villa Sana, Fredrikstad, Norway, price 3s. per copy.

The International Labour Office and Refugees.

BY LESLIE R. ALDOUS.

Encouraging progress in many international labour problems was reported by the Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation, which recently held its three days' autumn session at Geneva. It is perhaps unfortunate, that the word "Labour" in the I.L.O.'s title should tend to connect it popularly with the Labour Party. The I.L.O., of course, has no connection with party politics of any kind. This twin organisation to the League of Nations simply aims, through the medium of international co-operation, at bringing about better industrial conditions throughout the world.

The recent session was attended by eleven Governmental, six employers' and six workers' delegates. By far the most interesting discussion took place in regard to the proposal put forward by the League Assembly that the I.L.O. should undertake work on behalf of Russian refugees. Readers will doubtless remember the wonderful relief work organised throughout Eastern Europe by Dr. Nansen, as League High Commissioner. In spite of all his efforts, however, about 200,000 able-bodied Russian refugees still remain unprovided for. The task of finding them productive employment, it was decided at the recent Fifth Assembly, can only be efficiently undertaken by the International Labour Organisation. The problem, it is evident, closely concerns the questions of emigration and unemployment as well as those of general labour conditions, on which the I.L.O. has amassed an exhaustive store of information and statistics.

The Governing Body, after a great deal of discussion, has now accepted in principle the Assembly proposal. As a result, the I.L.O. will at once set to work upon a thorough investigation of the problem. Before long it is hoped to arrive at an estimate of the number of refugees for whom employment can be found.

The I.L.O. is also to collaborate with Dr. Nansen, whose expert knowledge of refugee problems is invaluable, in discussing a scheme

for settling Armenian refugees in the Caucasus.

The League Assembly, of course, does not expect the International Labour Organisation to undertake extra work of this description upon its normal budget. Hence a grant of 200,000 francs has been made to enable it to organise its new task efficiently.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

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

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of the Branch was held on January 2, at 91 Bedford Street by kind invitation of Mrs. Parnell. Both the Secretary's and Treasurer's Report showed an advance on last year and augured well for the future of the Branch. Miss Barry gave a stimulating address on the work of the Alliance in the past year both in association with other women's organisations and on its own account. She also warmly congratulated the Branch on its good work during the past year and paid a special tribute to the untiring efforts of its hon. secretary, Miss N. S. Parnell.

The elections for committee resulted as follows, Miss Sevenoaks, Chairman, Dr. Isabel Collier, Vice-Chairman, Miss Florence Jervis, Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Mills remained in the office of Treasurer, and Mrs. Broad volunteered to undertake the work of Paper-Secretary. The following were elected as ordinary members of the Committee: Mrs. Parnell, Mrs. Johnston, Miss McCurdy and Miss N. S. Parnell. Great regret was expressed that Miss. Parnell was obliged to resign the office of hon. secretary, pro. tem., owing to private reasons and a vote of thanks was passed for her splendid work during the year.

The members of the Branch wish to express their thanks to Mrs. Finn, Mrs. Gordon, Mrs. Graham, Miss Sevenoaks and Mrs. Parnell for offering their drawing-rooms for meetings and for their hospitality.

Dinner to Mrs. Allan.

On December 19th, the British Overseas Committee of the International Women's Suffrage Alliance, gave a dinner at the Forum to Mrs. Allan, substitute delegate for Australia to the Fifth Assembly of the League.

Lady Isabel Margesson welcomed Mrs. Allen in an appropriate speech. Mrs. Corbett Ashby spoke on behalf of the I.W.S.A., and Miss Collinson for the British Overseas Committee. Mrs. Allan gave a detailed and interesting account of her work at Geneva; and dealt fully with the new proposal to include Child Welfare in the League's Work. For this purpose the Advisory Committee on the Traffic in Women is to be reconstituted, and special assessor appointed to attend the Committee when questions of Child Welfare are to be discussed. The Council for the Representation of Women, and other bodies, are pressing the claim of International Women's Organizations to be permitted to appoint their own assessor for this purpose, in addition to their present nominee on the Advisory Committee on the Traffic in Women.

Miss Kathleen FitzGerald represented St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance at the dinner.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS.

	December 1st to 31st.	£	s.	d.
Atkinson, Miss N. F.	10	0	
Brady, Miss	5	0	
Busse, Miss	2	6	
Christitch, Mrs. and Miss	5	0	
Dorman, Miss A. L. P.	2	0	0
FitzGerald, Miss K.	5	0	
Hayes, Mrs. J.	1	6	
Robson, Mrs.	5	0	
Roch, the Hon. Mrs. Walter	10	6	
Stapleton, Mrs.	17	6	
		£5	2	0

The total amount realised from the Christmas Sales was £28 4s. 4d. This sum has gone a long way towards balancing our accounts for 1924, and I again thank most heartily all who helped in this endeavour. A year of hard work lies before the Alliance, since the defeat of the Labour Government involved the wreck of the Equal Suffrage Bill. The Alliance is pledged to secure Equal Suffrage and a new Bill must be pressed for. Therefore we ask members not to weary in well-doing, but to pay their Subscriptions for 1925 promptly, and whenever possible, increase them.

GABRIELLE JEFFERY.

National Union of Women Teachers,

39, GORDON SQUARE, LONDON, W. C. 1.

The Annual Conference of the National Union of Women Teachers was held in the Midland Institute, Birmingham, from December 29 to January 2.

The following were among the resolutions passed at the Conference:

Salaries and Equal Pay.

"This Conference of the National Union of Women Teachers

- calls the attention of the Government and Members of Local Education Authorities to the fact that whereas the majority of the teaching profession is composed of women, the Standing Joint Committee on Teachers' Salaries, which submitted terms of reference to Lord Burnham as arbitrator, comprises 47 men and only three women.
- asserts that any joint committee dealing with the professional interests of women teachers should contain a fair proportion of women among its members.
- protests against the salary scales submitted for arbitration in that they differentiate between men and women teachers of the same professional status; and
- reaffirms its belief that the principle of equal pay for equal work is not only a sound principle, but is also the only sure basis for a permanent settlement of the problem of the economic and social position of men and women workers."

Married Women Teachers.

"This Conference is of opinion that the dismissal of married women teachers on grounds other than those of inefficiency is opposed to the best interests of education."

Annual Subscriptions.

Annual Subscriptions to St. Joan's S.P.A. and the "Catholic Citizen" fall due on 1st January, 1925. It saves much trouble and expense to the Alliance if Subscriptions are paid promptly, and we shall be especially grateful to all who bear this in mind. The minimum subscription to the Alliance is 1/- and to the "Catholic Citizen" 2/6 post free, or 3/6 in all.

THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN.

**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.

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The Monthly Organ of

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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.

Monday, January 26th, 1925, at 8 p.m.,
St. Anne's Settlement Hall, Harleyford Road,
Vauxhall, S.E.

(Near the Kennington Oval and Vauxhall Stations).

His Lordship the BISHOP OF PELLA:

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