

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. XIII, No. 11.

15th DECEMBER, 1927.

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's Eighth Assembly.

By Leslie R. Aldous.

Geneva changes little from year to year, and the setting of the League of Nations remains very much the same. Yet each successive Assembly of the League has a character of its own. This year's Eighth Assembly astonished everybody by proving to be one of the most interesting and stimulating on record. A dull session had been anticipated. There were no outstanding items on the agenda and no new personalities among the delegations. Nevertheless, from the outset, the 1927 Assembly succeeded in electrifying the whole world.

The "revolt of the small Powers" will be long remembered by all who were at Geneva during the opening week of the Assembly. It created a situation unprecedented in history. Profoundly dissatisfied with the state of affairs, the small nations seemed determined to make a bold stand. So in a businesslike way, they set about criticising the tendency of the "Locarno Group" to decide important matters without consulting the rest of the League, and even challenged the sincerity of the Great Powers in regard to disarmament.

The disarmament discussions provided most of the thrills of the Assembly. Ten Foreign Ministers in succession made striking speeches, all marked by an unusual sense of realities. Most of them declared anew their continued faith in the Geneva Protocol,

and urged a fresh study of its principles.

When the Assembly sub-divided into its six Commissions, to deal respectively with the legal, technical, disarmament, financial, social and political activities of the League, the Third Commission set to work to reduce the conflicting opinions on disarmament to something like order. Its final "composite resolution" was a veritable triumph of compromise. In it could be traced the essential points of six distinct propositions put forward by as many States. Out of deference to the British point of view, all direct reference to the Geneva Protocol was dropped. For different reasons, Great Powers, small Powers and the British Dominions alike received it cordially. Thus, in the short space of three weeks, complete agreement was reached on the problem of the League's future disarmament policy.

The striking feature of this "composite resolution" is the importance which it attaches to arbitration as the best means of ruling out war and preparing the way for disarmament. States are urged to sign "all-in" arbitration treaties with each other. Moreover, a new Committee is to be appointed to study the best means of providing all countries with the guarantees of arbitration and security. This body will work side by side with the existing Preparatory Commission for the World Disarmament Conference.

In the full Assembly, the Polish resolution, declaring that "all wars of aggression are, and shall always be, prohibited," and that "every pacific means must be employed to settle disputes, of every description, which may arise between States," was enthusiastically adopted by roll-call vote.

Next in importance to the disarmament discussion came the debates on the World Economic Conference, held by the League last May. The resolutions of that Conference, if followed by the State-Members of the League, will do a great deal to settle trade conditions and increase prosperity. Many Governments gave definite promises to carry out the recommendations of the Economic Conference. The Assembly also set up a special Committee to supervise this side of its work.

The six Commissions of the Assembly did an enormous amount of useful work, as those of us who had to keep in touch with all that they were doing soon discovered. One encouraging feature to be noted is the fact that the humanitarian activities of the League now seem to be receiving their due recognition, even from Governments which in the past have criticised the League's expenditure of energy on non-political questions. Dame Edith Lyttelton took a prominent part in the discussions on the white slave traffic—her principal speech on this subject was generally acknowledged to be the finest that has ever been heard at Geneva.

A minor sensation was created when the question of slavery in the British Protectorate of Sierra Leone was raised in the Sixth Commission. The British delegate made a frank and satisfactory statement. The sequel is that an Ordinance has since been passed in Sierra Leone abolishing slavery as from January 1st, 1928. All the "Colonial" States undertook to ratify the League's Slavery Convention.

During the Assembly, two important offers were received by the League. One was a gift of £400,000 for the establishment of a League Library, the donor being Mr. Rockefeller. Italy also offered to bear the expense of setting up an International Educational Cinematograph Institute at Rome. Both were accepted.

Considerable excitement attended the election of three non-permanent members of the Council, in place of Belgium, Czecho-Slovakia and Salvador. Canada just managed to secure one of the seats, the other two new members being Finland and Cuba. The new Council met to discuss the Hungarian-Roumanian agrarian reform dispute, but postponed the matter until December.

Altogether, the Eighth Assembly far surpassed expectations. All the proceedings were characterised by a fresh vitality, which shows that the League is not going "stale." At no Assembly has a bigger volume of useful work been accomplished. Certainly the session was anything but a rest cure, either for the delegates or for the journalists from almost all civilised countries who had flocked to Geneva.

Poster Parade.

On the reassembling of Parliament the members of St. Joan's Alliance were well to the fore in the parade around the Houses of Parliament, organised by the equal Political Rights Campaign Committee. They wore the usual sandwich boards with "Votes for Women on the same terms as Men" and carried umbrellas bearing the slogan "Votes for Women at 21".

As they assembled a host of photographers swooped down upon them and photographed them at every angle and position showing that the press boycott has completely broken down. After smilingly submitting to the attention of these gentlemen the procession marched for two hours outside the Houses of Parliament, being very well received by an interested crowd of watchers despite the bad weather. Most of the evening papers and many of the west end cinemas showed pictures of the demonstration.

On March the 8th, a Mass Demonstration on Equal Franchise organised by the N.U.S.E.C., and supported by 50 organisations, including St. Joan's Alliance, will be held in the Queen's Hall at 8 p.m. Further particulars will be given in *The Catholic Citizen*. Please keep this date free.

Notes and Comments.

We beg all our readers to bear in mind the very important Equal Franchise Meeting in the New Year, the "King's Speech" Meeting (organised by the Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee) to be held at the Caxton Hall at 8 p.m., on the day following the opening of Parliament. Viscountess Rhondda, in the chair, speakers, Mrs. G. F. Abbott, Miss Froud, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence and Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell. Admission free.

* * * *

It is unnecessary to stress the importance of this meeting, or to urge all members to be present. The King's Speech will foreshadow the intentions of the Government, and on this our future policy will depend. We shall expect nothing less than a simple franchise measure, giving votes to women at 21 and on the same terms as men to be introduced at the very beginning of the new session and free from any clause of a controversial nature.

* * * *

We offer our sincere congratulations to our new women M.P., Lady Iveagh, elected to represent Southend by a majority of over 9000. This brings the number of women M.P.'s to seven. St. Joan's S.P.A. rejoices in the election of women of all parties, provided they are good feminists. Lady Iveagh is certainly a supporter of Equal Franchise.

* * * *

The Association for Moral and Social Hygiene to which St. Joan's S.P.A. is affiliated, calls attention to the fact that the Secretary for State for the Colonies has sanctioned an amendment to the law in the Federated Malay States, by which the compulsory examinations of prostitutes becomes legal. St. Joan's S.P.A. has already sent up a strong protest to the Colonial Secretary, pointing out that his action is a contradiction of the principle laid down in 1925 in the report of the Colonial Office Advisory Committee on Social Hygiene, which recommended

at the earliest practicable date the suppression of all brothels. By this enactment the British Government gives official recognition to a large number of houses of ill fame. The Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, St. Joan's S.P.A. and many other organisations, urge the Government to convene the Advisory Committee once again, to consider the whole question of prostitution in the Federated Malay States and other crown colonies.

* * * *

In the recent municipal elections, one woman Lord Mayor, and thirteen women mayors were elected. The *Vote*, November 25, gives an interesting interview with Miss Margaret Beavan, J.P., Lord Mayor of Liverpool. On reading the long list of her works for the citizens of Liverpool, we feel that in congratulating Miss Beavan, we must at the same time congratulate Liverpool on so wise a choice.

* * * *

We thank the editor of the *Messenger of the Sacred Heart* for his kind remarks on the *Catholic Citizen*, in the November issue. The editor says that amongst other things that the C.C. shows a fighting spirit in all matters where the interest of women are at stake, and keeps a very sharp eye on all such questions, both at home and abroad. He thinks, though it may be necessary, that we probably restrict our circulation by the fact that we frequently deal with questions relating to sex. We should be glad indeed if we could conscientiously shirk these unpleasant subjects. Perhaps if our Catholic contemporaries were to take a full share in exposing these evils, we might have more space for pleasanter matters.

* * * *

Miss Douglas Irvine represented St. Joan's S.P.A., on the Deputation to the Home Secretary on Age of Marriage, etc. The Home Secretary declared himself in favour of a change in the law, but pointed out some of the difficulties in the way. He asked the deputation to appoint a small committee to confer with the Home Office in the matter.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE,

AND

Editorial Office of "Catholic Citizen":

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

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

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The Policy of the Open Door.

St. Joan's S.P.A. stands for equal opportunities for men and women in industry, as well as in other walks of life. At the moment there is real danger that the progress of women in industry will be checked by well-meaning legislation—inspired, perhaps, by some who are jealous of female competition, legislation which under the guise of protecting women workers, restricts their labour, and handicaps them in earning a livelihood. The danger is both national and international, since the International Labour Office exercises a world wide influence and international conventions may hamper the woman worker in many lands.

It was to combat this danger that a new Council was formed some eighteen months ago, and with which St. Joan's S.P.A. is associated. This Council, bearing the title of the Open Door Council, has one definite object: equal opportunities and conditions for all adult women workers, professional or industrial, married or unmarried, and equal chances of training and entry into all the profession and trades. It is scarcely necessary to say that the O.D.C. is not opposed to the protection of the workers, but it believes that all safeguarding, or other regulations should be based on the nature of the work, and not on the sex of the worker. The Council believes that benevolent endeavours to exclude women from

certain trades and processes considered unhealthy, limit their field of employment and tend to lower their wages, and so the special care of women defeats its own ends. The O.D.C. stands, as does St. Joan's, for the right of women, married or unmarried, to decide for themselves at all times, whether or not they shall engage in paid work. It is true that certain sections of industrial women desire restrictive legislation, but certain classes of women fought against their own enfranchisement. This did not prevent them from availing themselves of the right to vote, which others had won for them, nor yet from entering Parliament when opportunity offered. If the principle of freedom in industry is right, and we believe it is, the plea that some women don't want it is of no value. Nor is it safe to believe that those who claim to speak for industrial women do in fact speak for them all. The successful protest meeting held at the Caxton Hall on November 17, under the auspices of the O.D.C., when the Women House Painters and Decorators voiced their grievance against the exclusion of women under the Lead Paint Bill, from the painting trade, was clear proof that women in the trade do not welcome this kind of "protection." The meeting, which was crowded, passed, with one dissentient, a resolution protesting against section two of the Lead Paint

(Protection against Poisoning) Act of 1926, in so far as it prohibits women from engaging in the work of housing-painting and decorating under the same protections as men, and called upon the government to introduce an amending bill to remove the disability. The resolution further expressed the strongest indignation that such disabilities should have been placed upon women's employment, without any inquiry being instituted by the Home Office into the health of the women engaged in the painting industry, or their conditions of work. The speakers made it clear that the Act will prevent women's firms from being able to compete with men's firms, and shut women out of an industry in which they were doing good work.

This is the result of 'protective' legislation, and all who object to this kind of protection, whether for themselves or others, should support the work of the Open Door Council.

L. de Alberti.

Amsterdam Conference.

The Conference held in Amsterdam by the International Woman Suffrage Alliance from the 16th to the 20th of November, for the study of means of securing peace was very successful. The attendance was not large, mainly because the subject considered is only one of the items on the Alliance programme. Moreover a conference at this time of the year and in this rather remote and chilly capital is not irresistibly attractive. But the organisation was excellent thanks to the ability and energy of Miss Rosa Manus and the ability, enthusiasm and generosity with which her compatriots seconded her. Every foreigner who was present brought away a pleasant memory of Dutch hospitality. Our member Madame Mulder van de Graaf de Bruijn was among those who welcomed the delegates of foreign associations at a reception on the first evening of the conference. At the subsequent meetings, particularly interesting speeches were made by Dr. Emmy Freundlich (Austria), Frau Lüders (Germany), Monsieur Maurette (L. of N.), Professor Ruysens (L. of N.) and Monsieur Madariaga (I.L.O.) Admiral Allen, lately of the British Navy, is less used to oratory as a means of

supporting his opinions, but he made an impression by his sincerity. It was plain that he had first-hand knowledge to practical difficulties in the way of his fulfilment of his unmistakable and strong desire for naval disarmament. Throughout, the speakers, and their audience maintained the attitude of anxious seekers after the means of securing peace, and avoided dogmatic pacifism.

Mrs. Chapman Catt, Founder and Hon. President of the Alliance, came from the U.S.A. to be present at the Conference.

Now that this subject has been so specially considered, we hope that the board will remember that at least as much attention is due to the subjects assigned to the other commissions of the I.W.S.A., particularly to those two capital issues of feminism—an equal moral law and equal working opportunities and pay for men and women. These points are essential to feminism in all its aspects, whereas peace, desirable though it be, is no more than incidental to feminism in its international aspect. For this reason, St. Joan's did not send a voting delegate to the Amsterdam conference, although Miss Erica Butler-Bowdon represented us at it in a watching capacity. She voted, however, as an individual. Miss Helen Douglas Irvine and Miss Barry, who were in Amsterdam for the meetings of the Presidents of the I.W.S.A. and of the Enfranchised Women's Committee were also present at some of the meetings of the Conference.

H. D. I.

* * * *

A very successful and enjoyable dance organised by Miss Monica O'Connor was held at St. Patrick's Schools on November 25. The hall presented a very gay appearance, being decorated with many coloured balloons. Exhibition dancing was given by two professionals. Our thanks are due to Miss Monica O'Connor for all the trouble she took and the splendid way in which she organised the dance, also to all those who decorated the hall and helped at the buffet.

As a result a good sum was handed to the Hon. Treasurer. It is hoped that another dance may be held in the new year which we hope many members will patronise.

The Oxford Liquor Bill

Miss Monica Whately writes in reply to Mrs. Dalton's article:

I should like to point out one or two things which Mrs. Dalton has overlooked.

First, the defeat of the Bill in the House of Lords this July was exactly what was expected; it was introduced for the purpose of discussion and publicity, and will be introduced again for the same object. . . .

I am surprised that Mrs. Dalton, who considers "the primary concern of the British and essentially the Catholic citizen in this matter should be the promotion of temperance," supports a system which has as its first object the amassing of financial profits, only too often at the expense of Temperance.

Let us be perfectly fair; the drink trade is a business concern, and as long as it remains in private hands, must do all it can to increase consumption. Again, almost all the Public Houses, "Reformed" or otherwise, are TIED houses, the property of the Brewers. The Publican (the paid servant of the Brewers) who serves the customer, receives a percentage on the amount of drink he is able to sell. . . .

We have only to read the Trade journals to see what the Trade stands for, and the very serious menace their influence has on the political life of our country. One of the objects of the National Trade Defence Association is "to watch at all times the general interests of the Trade as a whole in and out of Parliament, to secure by all legal means, regardless of party politics, the return to the House of Commons and other elected bodies, of candidates favourable to the Trade interests . . . and generally to do all things that the committee shall deem to be for the interests of the Trade." Again, one of the objects of the Licensed Victuallers' Central Protection Society of London, Ltd., is "to aid in securing for the Trade such Parliamentary, Municipal and Parochial representations as is necessary for the protection of its interests." The Women's Auxiliary League (of the Licensed Trade) has been established to conduct active propaganda for the Trade, and especially before Parliamentary and Municipal elections to secure candidates favourably disposed to the Trade.

What would the people of this country think if they were asked to return to the House of Commons, "regardless of Party Politics," Butchers, or Furriers, whose object in getting into Parliament was primarily to look after the interests of their own particular Trade? Surely Mrs. Dalton must recognise that to ask people to put aside their Party, the welfare of their Constituents, and the good of their Country, in the interest of any one Trade, is colossal arrogance on the part of that Trade, and yet that is what the Drink Trade expects people to do. In the North Southwark by-election, at the outset the *Licensing World* tells us, "the three candidates were WARNED by the South London Victuallers' Protection Association, that the licensees in the Constituency would not vote for anyone who was prepared to allow the present licensing anomalies to continue." Mr. Strauss

was the only candidate who answered the Trade's test questions satisfactorily, and also alluded to the Sunday licensing anomaly in his election address. This gave him the whole support of the Trade.

To answer Mrs. Dalton's objections to the Oxford Bill; she objects that it does not permit a return to the present system once an area has voted by a majority for either Re-organization or no licence. Some people might continue to have the impression which they have because so many opponents of the Bill, such as Lord Banbury, etc., have said that it is the case, that once an area decides for No licence, it must be dry for ever. Mrs. Dalton says "on the first count the people having once decided to abolish licences, the decision is irrevocable," she goes on to explain it is true, but people are very careless readers. The Bishop of Liverpool put this very well when he last introduced the Bill into the House of Lords. He put forward practical reasons why that requirement should be made. "In the first place, imagine the situation in an area from which private ownership has been excluded, if all of a sudden it is brought back again. It would have to be decided what brewers should be allowed to supply liquor, what you are to do with the tied houses, having got rid of redundant houses, what houses are to be continued; also what you are to do with those which have been turned into cafés and so on. The thing would be a matter of intolerable confusion. . . .

The other attack is still weaker: she attacks the re-organization clauses of the Bill, and says this amounts to a nationalisation of the drink trade. . . . I submit that when you nationalise an industry, you take the whole of that industry and set it under the control of a minister of the Crown who is responsible to Parliament, whose policy may be criticised and debated in Parliament. Every detail of it may be raised at some time or other. . . . Further, Mrs. Dalton objects to that clause of the Bill which allows the advocates of Prohibition to express their convictions at the polls. Mrs. Dalton thinks local option is "the stepping stone to prohibition," but if the majority of the people of the country want it, have we any right to put the wishes of the minority, who represent the Trade, against the majority, who represent the People?

I have little patience with those who consider that the Trade is badly treated under this Bill. For years their profits have been enormous; in 1926, out of a turnover of £301,300,000, the Trade took £172,400,000. I do not think, therefore, they will suffer unduly by paying what Mrs. Dalton calls "an inordinate levy"—when after the payment of this levy they will still have at least £5,000,000 more profit than they made before the war.

Mrs. Dalton claims that "Local Option has proved a failure wherever it has been tried," and that the United States "affords irrefutable proof that Prohibition does not abolish drunkenness." Local Option has been tried in so few places, that it is difficult to judge of its results,

still in the Local Option areas of Scotland in 1914, the last completely wet year, the infantile mortality was 115 per thousand, while in 1923 it had dropped to 85 per thousand. In Kirkin-tilloch, one of the dry areas, the consumption of milk in 1914 was 43,000 gallons, and in 1922, 153,000 gallons, while savings in the Municipal bank were in 1921, £10,281, in 1926 were £31,910. In the United States Local Option was on trial for many years before National Prohibition became law on the overwhelming vote of the people.

It is unfair for Mrs. Dalton to say "State management has not advanced the cause of temperance in Carlisle"; the compiler of the licensing statistics blue book warns people of the folly of comparing the statistics of one place against another. The opinion of the Chief Constable, Mayor, Social workers and Ministers of the place itself, are infinitely more reliable. The Southborough Report, too, is quite discredited and laughed at scornfully by such a paper as the *Times*. . . .

Having just returned from three months of investigation in the United States, I can say most emphatically that Prohibition in that country is a huge success, the benefit to the Workers has been enormous, and the number of people who disobey the law by drinking vastly exaggerated. . . .

31 Brookfield,
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* Christmas Sale

TREASURER'S NOTE.

We took £22 at our Stall at the Green, White and Gold Fair, organized by the Women's Freedom League, which was a larger amount than usual. Our hearty thanks are again due to the helpers on both days, to those who gave donations of money as acknowledged above, and to the following for their gifts in kind: Miss R. Atkinson, Misses Bain, F. Barry, de Bulnes, E. Butler-Bowdon, Fraser Duff, Fedden, Gorry, Mrs. Groves, Mrs. Hayes, Miss Cecilia Hill,

Mrs. Laughton Matthews, Misses Meredith, Mo-clair, Dr. Morice, Miss M. O'Brien, Mrs. Sheehan, Mrs. Shorto, Mrs. Smiley, Misses Stack, A. Stafford, Francis Tucker & Co., Ltd., Misses Wall, Walker, Ward, M. Westlake, and Mme. de Zaro; and to Miss Foot for lending her car.

There are still a few things left over which may be purchased at our Office before Christmas. Miss Butler-Bowdon has designed and presented the Alliance with two most delightful Christmas Cards, in colour, which are also on sale, price 4d. each.

G. JEFFERY.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

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

Though there is no ordinary meeting to record, the month has been full of activity for the Branch. On the morning of Armistice Day many members took part in the impressive procession of women organized by the Liverpool Peacemakers' Pilgrimage Committee, to which this Branch is affiliated, and in the evening many heard Lord Cecil's magnificent address on the future of the League of Nations. On Sunday, November 20, the Branch was represented at the various celebrations in honour of St. Joan, held at St. Joan's Church, Bootle, when Fr. O'Neill, P.P., promised to come and address the members on our patron saint, to whom he also has a great devotion. The Branch is to be represented on the Josephine Butler Centenary Committee by the Hon. Secretary, who is also on the panel of speakers. Several members attended the Equal Franchise Dinner, organized by the Liverpool Women Citizens' Association, in order to give the members of the Association an opportunity of meeting and thanking those of the local Members of Parliament who have declared their intention of voting for the Equal Franchise Bill. The Hon. Secretary, by request of the Association, spoke at the Dinner on behalf of the "under thirties."

Jumble Sale.

As reported in last month's *Catholic Citizen*, the sum of £10 18s. 2d., was handed over to the Treasurer of the *Catholic Citizen* as the result of a very successful Jumble Sale organised by Mrs. Laughton Mathews, M.B.E., on November 5, in Fulham. There were several stalls manned by willing helpers, both members and non-members. Our thanks are due to these and to all those who sent gifts to the stall, to those who lent their cars, to Mrs. Laughton Mathews for so admirable organising the sale and to Lady Laughton for her kindness in entertaining the helpers to tea afterwards.

M. FEDDEN,
Hon. Treas. *Catholic Citizen*.

**ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND
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