

# THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

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

VOL. IX., No. 2.

February 15th, 1923.

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.

## Call to the Ninth Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, Rome, May 12th-19th, 1923.

The International Woman Suffrage Alliance calls upon its twenty-eight National Auxiliaries, and upon the twenty new societies either provisionally affiliated or applying for affiliation, to send to its Ninth Congress, to be held in Rome, May 12 to 19, 1923, their full quota of duly accredited delegates, and upon the Governments of all nations to send official delegates. The Alliance will equally welcome fraternal delegates from women's international associations as from national associations which support the object of the Alliance, together with personal supporters of the movement.

At the Geneva Congress in 1920, twenty-two new suffrage victories were announced. At Rome the Alliance will celebrate the establishment of equal suffrage for women throughout the United States of America; in Ireland and in Bombay, Madras, Travancore, Jahalwar, Cochin and Burma—the first Eastern countries to give votes to women.

We shall also rejoice with the women of Denmark on their new right to equal pay and equal work in Government service; with the women of Australia that they can now return women to certain State Parliaments; with the women of Japan on having received the right to attend political meetings; with the women of Germany, Belgium, Austria, Spain, Portugal, Argentina and India, on the recent admission of women to the legal profession; with the women of the United States of America, which has given the lead to other countries in giving to married women the right to their own nationality; with the women of Norway,

Sweden, Denmark, Roumania, France, Great Britain, Uruguay, Australia and Siam, the Governments of which have appointed women representatives to the Assembly, the Commissions or Conferences of the League of Nations; and with the women of the many countries on further steps taken towards our ultimate goal—the establishment of a real equality of liberties, status and opportunities between men and women.

Women Members of Parliament will tell of their work in the Legislatures of many nations; women from Eastern nations will set forth the great progress made in their countries. The Congress will make practical plans for giving help internationally to the women of the unenfranchised countries in their efforts to secure the political vote. Special sessions will deal with the question of Equal Pay and Right to Work; Moral Questions; Nationality of Married Women; the Economic Position of the Wife and the Illegitimate Child; the relation of enfranchised women to the political parties, and what enfranchised women can do to forward the programme of the Alliance; and decisions will be taken to outline the future policy of the Alliance.

¶ The vote is our first objective; but much remains to be done before, unhampered by shackling prejudice and sentimental taboo, women are really free to share equally with men in all spheres the responsibilities of building up a better world.

¶ Come, therefore, all who care for the honour and freedom of women, to lend your aid in the great campaign of the Latin women; and here,

in the Eternal City which saw the dawn of European civilization, affirm your belief in the greatness of woman's contribution to the ideal of a civilization which shall be world-wide and founded on a basis of justice and equality.

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### International Notes.

In an article on "Our Point of View" in the BULLETIN on the Italian Catholic Women's Union it is regrettable to find not only no appreciation of the vote as an indispensable aid to women's rightful development, but at least indirectly, an attack on the suffrage ideal. The writer sees in the "individualistic tendency" of so many feminist societies "the error of the feminist movement of to-day." Yet it is true to say that the reforms she desiderates in family life are among the very things that suffragists in all countries include in their aims.

Melle. Van den Plas shews with her usual clarity (FÉMINISME CHRÉTIEN) the fallacy underlying the French conception of the "family vote" as a satisfactory substitute for women's suffrage. In effect it would make women's position worse than before, for instead of giving her a vote it would only bestow an extra vote on her husband for every child she bore him! It seems to us to add insult to injury. Melle. Van den Plas, unlike ourselves, approves on the whole of the idea of the family vote, but urges, not only that women must first have a vote for themselves, but that the children's votes should go alternately to the father and to the mother.

Readers interested in Welfare Work will find much that is informing in an account in the FEMME BELGE by Melle. Radermacher, a pupil of the Belgian Catholic Social School, on her aims and experiences as a factory supervisor.

LA FRANÇAISE proposes to draw up a feminist calendar and to organise suitable commemorations for the most important events as the anniversaries recur.

The Seine et Marne branch of the U.F.S.F. has written a strong letter of protest to the Mayor of Melun for having recently authorised the opening of a *maison de tolérance* in that town. It is an example that might well be followed by women in all countries where State Regulation still prevails.

We learn from the TRAVAIL DES FEMMES (Geneva) that the scheme of "allocations familiales," or family allowances, of which Miss Eleanor Rathbone is so strong a supporter, has passed from France into Switzerland, and, once again, it is a Catholic organisation that has taken the initiative. The Union Sociale des Patrons Catholiques has drawn up a careful scheme of contributions and already one industrial house has put it into operation. This, it will be remembered, was the scheme which, on its first inception, was hurriedly turned down by the C.S.G. and the C.W.I., as contrary to the Catholic interests of the family!

NYLAENDE (Christiania) publishes an appreciative account of Lady Astor and her work for women in the House of Commons.

JENSKI GLAS (Sofia) the Bulgarian Women's organ, is both strongly feminist and pacifist and devotes the greater part of its December issue to an account of the Women's Conference at the Hague and to a long report of the work and aims of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

The little bi-annual BULLETIN of the Etudiantes Catholiques gives a very encouraging account of the growth of the movement in France. At the first annual conference organised last year at Montpellier, representatives

(Continued on p. 11).

### NOTES AND COMMENTS.

We shall be glad if any of our members who are thinking of going to the Rome Congress will communicate with Miss Barry. The journey, first class return, will be about £16, second £10 10s.

We hope that all our members, who are within reach of London will come to the Annual Meeting of the C.W.S.S. It is the one opportunity of the year for a general conference on the work of the Society. For particulars of meeting see advert. page.

We also hope to see many of our members at the meeting on February 28th, at 8 p.m., at the Subscription Library, Prince Arthur Rd., Hampstead, in connection with the Rome Congress. The speakers will be Mrs. Abbott, Editor of the *International Woman Suffrage News*: Mrs. Herabai Tata, of Bombay, and others.

We are indebted to the *International Woman Suffrage Alliance News* for the following information: President Harding has signed the Cable Bill which provides for the independent citizenship of married American women and stipulates that the marriage of an alien woman to an American citizen shall not confer citizenship upon her, but requires her to become naturalized on her own account. This has brought satisfaction to the women of the country who have long felt that women who are married should be treated as individuals and not as adjuncts to their husbands. Aliens married to aliens at the time of the passage of the law (September 22nd, 1922), are not affected by it, but may become naturalized by complying with all the old law requirements, including declaration, five years' continuous residence in the United States, presentation of certificate of entry, ability to speak the English language and sign their names in their own handwriting, and single aliens may continue as in the past to file declarations and petitions for naturalization. But no woman citizen of the United States shall cease to be a citizen by reason of her marriage, unless she makes a formal renunciation of her citizenship before a court having jurisdiction over the naturalization of aliens,

or unless she marries an alien ineligible to citizenship. Both alien and American women may become naturalized without filing a declaration of intention, and after only one year's continuous residence in the United States or its dependencies.

We deeply regret to record the loss of our Associate, Canon O'Loughlin, and of our member, Miss Margaret Brady, who died recently. R.I.P.

#### CONVENT OF OUR LADY OF THE CENACLE.

##### WAVERTREE, LIVERPOOL.

##### WEEK-END RETREATS FOR LADIES.

March 16th to 19th. Revd. Father Jaggard, S.J.

March 23rd to 26th, Revd. Father Martindale, S.J.

(For women graduates and undergraduates.)

(Continued from page 10)

attended from Aix, Bordeaux and Toulouse, while reports were forwarded from the groups at Grenoble, Lyon, Marseilles and Caen. The conference this year will take place at Aix on the third Sunday after Easter.

That admirably edited missionary monthly, the INDIAN SENTINEL (Washington), bears unexpected witness to the capacity of Indian women for public service. At the Catholic Sioux Congress of South Dakota it appears the women were given a rather limited time for their reports. They sat patiently listening to the lengthy debates of the men, and when it came to their turn they expressed briefly, but to the point, their pique at the waste of time and the fruitlessness of the men's discussions. Not one of the forty women delegates exceeded the time limit of five minutes and every one of them delivered a useful message, often in very striking language. It is pleasant to add that the men, as a result, made an effort to mend their ways.

V.M.C.

## THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.

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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## EQUAL FRANCHISE.

As we recorded last month Mr. Bonar Law, though a consistent supporter of women's suffrage, and one who realises that the discrimination in age between men and women cannot be permanent, would not give a promise to bring in a Bill to remove the inequalities in the Franchise if such a measure gave rise to acute controversy. Will it give rise to acute controversy? Over six million women have been citizens since the Representation of the People Bill was placed on the Statute Book five years ago. No fierce battle between men and women electors has yet occurred to bring havoc on the nation. Women, as many of us have foretold, freely entered the different political parties; the suggestion of a Women's Party met with little favour from women citizens, and that bogey is safely buried. What then have men to fear? Surely the Premier need not fear for the tranquillity of the nation from the discussion of equal franchise. Every sensible person knows that the existing inequalities must be removed, and that there is nothing to be gained by delay.

The National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship is organising a Demonstration on Equal Franchise at the Central Hall, Westminster, on Wednesday, March 7th, at 8 p.m. They have secured a fine list of speakers: Lady Astor, M.P., Miss Margaret Bondfield, J.P., Lady Bonham Carter, Mrs. Henry Fawcett, J.P., Miss Daisy Richardson, and Mrs. Wintringham, M.P. The chair will be taken by Miss Eleanor Rathbone, J.P., M.A., C.C. We ask all members and friends of the C.W.S.S. to come to the Central Hall to show their determination to obtain equal citizenship.

Our readers will perhaps remember that the discrimination in age is not the only inequality. The parliamentary franchise for women is based on the Local Government qualification. That is to say women of thirty who have, or whose husbands have, a local government vote, have also a parliamentary vote. This rules out all women who live in furnished apartments; which means that a large percentage of professional and industrial women are disfranchised, and daughters living at home, unless they can prove that the furniture of the room they occupy belongs to them. On the other hand a man's parliamentary vote is based on residence only, whether he occupies furnished or unfurnished apartments. There are other minor discrepancies, and it is full time they were swept away. By the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Bill the British Government have placed on record their disapproval of discrimination against women on the ground of sex, and by so doing registered their disapproval of their own act.

It rests with women citizens, pledged to obtain the vote for the younger women, to bring home to the new Government the urgency of the question. We know that our members and readers are keen supporters of equality in citizenship; they will have an opportunity on Wednesday, March 7th, of showing their eagerness and we know they will not fail.

L. DE ALBERTI.

We are asked to say that a Block of 5s. seats in the body of the Hall is reserved for Societies at special rates. Societies sending over six members, 2s. each. Over 15 members, 1s. each. Send for your tickets to C.W.S.S., 55, Berners Street, London, W.1.

## Reviews.

We have received and cordially welcome a new Catholic monthly magazine issued by the Catholic Truth Society. The new magazine is called CATHOLIC TRUTH, its price is 3d. The print and paper are excellent, and as to the matter one has only to say that the first number contains articles by the Revd. Father Thurston, S.J., and Mr. Belloc, to show the standard set by the first number. We wish the new magazine every success.

January, 1923, also sees the birth of another Catholic journal, THE CATHOLIC MEDICAL GUARDIAN, the quarterly journal of the Guild of St. Luke, St. Cosmas and St. Damian, which as our readers know is the Guild of Catholic doctors. The new quarterly is 1s. 4d. per copy, post free. It comes at a moment when there seems a very special need for the relation of medical theory and practice to Catholic teaching to be clearly stated. The editor of THE CATHOLIC MEDICAL GUARDIAN is Lieutenant-Col. P. W. O'Gorman. It has our best wishes.

THE CHURCH IN ENGLAND IN 1922. By Father Bede Jarrett, O.P. Catholic Truth Society. 2d.

This interesting pamphlet traces the growth of Catholicism in England since the days of persecution. It is a fascinating and on the whole very exhilarating record.

A number of pamphlets have reached us from America from the International Catholic Truth Society, but we regret to note that there is not a single woman on the Board of Directors, although women are appealed to for their financial support. TRUTH, the monthly organ of the Society, offers a great deal of excellent promiscuous reading. An admirable pamphlet by the Rev. L. Johnston, "After all, What is the State?" points out the dangers of State absolutism as essentially anti-Christian and declares Americans to be the most law-ridden people in the world.

WHO'S WHO IN THE NEW PARLIAMENT (Philip Gee, 2s. net).

In looking through this book we wonder how we have existed without it. Here we

have set down the record and pledges of all our M.P.'s. We are reminded that Mr. Asquith believes in political and legal equality for men and women; that Mr. Bonar Law has no special message for women, but addresses all audiences as reasonable human beings. Or to turn to the rank and file we are reminded that Mr. Rolleston Lort Williams, K.C., Unionist, Bermondsey, desires the full enfranchisement of women; and that Mr. Louth, Labour, Manchester, stands for the equality of men and women in all respects; and so on throughout the whole House of Commons. Who's who in the New Parliament is a most interesting and valuable book of reference giving the views of our representatives on all important political questions.

LLOYD'S A.B.C. OF CAREERS FOR GIRLS. United Press, Ltd., 1s. net.

This "Enquire Within" upon every profession and calling open to women, is a mine of information, and should be of incalculable value to young women starting out to earn their living. Even older women will find many useful hints of how to add to their incomes. Its modest price has no relation to its real value.

DONNA LUISA DE CARVAJAL. Catholic Play by a Nun of Tyburn Convent. Arthur H. Stockwell.

The Spanish heroine around whom this play is written deserves to be better known among English Catholics for she gave her life in their service in the days of persecution. This play should help to make her known, and we foresee that it will be recited or even acted in many Catholic schools. As Dom Bede Camm reminds us the cause of the beatification of Doña Luisa is again being considered, and it was a happy thought on the part of the author to bring her before us in this touching little play.

We offer our hearty congratulations to our member, Miss Dorothy Collier, who was one of the first four women to receive the B.M. Beh. degree at Oxford.

## A SANE SYSTEM.

By MARGUERITE FEDDEN.

The policy which pays in the long run is that of following principle rather than that of acting from motives of expediency.

As individuals, it is to be feared, we are often weak and swayed by every passing wind; we are greedy by ambition, timid by fear and timeserving towards those who can make or mar us. We do not follow principle as we ought. The State, however, should be governed by principle and principle only.

We often see this is far from being the case. Great State departments and other governing bodies are not always guided by principle; they are often influenced by the expediency of pleasing the larger male vote, trade unions, etc.

Governments often seem to have no fixed policy; they are weak and strong, placatory and ruthless, by turns, and the State departments and municipal authorities follow their lead.

Take the Board of Education and the L.C.C. Education Committee which, owing to their great influence on the coming generation should adhere strictly to principle; their duty is to do the best possible for the children of the country and to give evenhanded justice and appreciation to their employees from inspectors down to caretakers and cleaners, irrespective of sex.

This can only be done by giving equal pay for equal work.—paying according to merit, training, experience, degrees and qualifications, and *not* according to sex. Teachers and lecturers should be paid as such and not as men and women.

Granted there is such a thing as co-ordination of sex in industry, as was proved in the making of munitions during the war; some things are better done by a man and some by a woman, but this does not interfere with the principle of "equal pay for equal work."

Before the war there was a growing feeling of sex antagonism in the land, bred of misunderstanding, shallow-thinking and ignorance. It showed itself in various ways, in industry, in the street, in the home and at political meetings. Then came the War and its resultant upheavals and this feeling was almost killed. The mingling of men and

women in war work, the bravery of those who went out to fight, the opportunities for women to prove their mettle in the ranks of industry, the belated, yet hurried legislation which gave votes to some women, all helped to make a good understanding.

Still, if sex antagonism is to be finally scotched, we must go even further than we have already adventured.

First the vote must be given to women on the same terms as it is extended to men, the trade unions must take a wider view in their membership arrangements. An ancient university must follow the example of a more progressive sister university and throw open its sacred portals to women. Lastly equal pay must be given for equal work in all sections of the community.

Particularly should this last be the case among members of the teaching profession, where the lesson of sex equality is so important to the younger generation. Objections may be raised that a man usually has a family to provide for, whereas a woman is often single and without responsibilities. Let this be granted, but any unfairness to the married man can be put right by tax adjustment to the size of the family, and bonuses for wife and children, and by legislation introducing Mothers' Pensions, also by offering further valuable opportunities for the free education, training and maintenance of children and adolescents. We notice that when the salaries are paid there is no differentiation made between the married man who has given "hostages to fortune" and the bachelor or childless widower.

On the other hand, many women teachers have dependents—old parents, invalid relations and others, while some are widows with children.

Equal pay for equal work is an advantageous principle for men if carefully considered, for when men's work is well paid and women's is underpaid the tendency is for employers to engage a large proportion of women on their staffs; there is a boom in cheap labour. Unconsciously, the women who are underpaid "blackleg" the men. How much better if the salaries were equalised! Men would be

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## ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS.

I am very grateful to all those who began the New Year so well by paying their subscriptions. There are however still a great many more to come in and I am hoping to receive these before the end of the month. They are all necessary to carry on the work from day to day, as we have no large balance at the bank to draw upon.

G. JEFFERY.

## EDINBURGH BRANCH.

Hon. Secretary: Miss Casey, 3, Cambridge Street, Edinburgh.

The next meeting will be held at 8 p.m. on February 20th, in St. Anne's R.C. School, Cowgate. The meeting will be addressed by Miss N. Brown, on "The Passion Play."

employed in larger numbers. With a fair salary, which presupposes a sound economic status, many unmarried men would venture to embark on matrimony, with the result that more homes would be founded and part of the extra female population absorbed. This has been proved amongst factory workers and would doubtless have the same result in the teaching profession.

But, what of the women whose point of view needs investigation also. There are in this country more than two million women, who cannot hope for marriage; the majority of them must be self-supporting for life; they have the right to *live* as distinguished from the right to *exist* just as have their brothers; they need shelter, food, clothing, and recreation as do the men. If they are teachers, they need opportunities for continuing their education and of broadening their outlook by travel, purchasing books, attending concerts and plays and joining societies. All this cannot be had for nothing. Teachers need to be free, as far as possible, from financial anxiety, worry and strain. Nervous subjects react detrimentally on their pupils.

We realise that in this age-old world there is a temporary surplus of women in certain countries owing to wars, men's dangerous callings and the greater difficulty of rearing boy than girl babies, but that is no reason why women should spend long lives of penury, stinting and struggle.

Equal pay for equal work irrespective of sex is a just principle and makes for the good, not only of women, but of men; it is by linking up the interests and aims of the sexes that progress is made.

Besides there is the principle, as opposed to the expedient of "payment according to sex."

*Fiat justitia, ruat cælum.*

Will any reader who would like to join a Speaker's Class, please communicate with Miss Barry, 55, Berners St., W.1.

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## LECTURES.

Wednesday, Feb. 21st, 8-15 p.m.—"If I were Prime Minister." Speaker  
announced later. "If I were Chancellor of the Exchequer." Mrs.  
AYRES PURDIE. (By kind arrangement of the Women's Freedom  
League).

Wednesday, Feb. 28th, 8-15 p.m.—"If I were Home Secretary." Miss  
NINA BOYLE. "If I were Secretary for Foreign Affairs." Miss  
V. V. J. ACHESON. (By kind arrangement of the Women's Freedom  
League).

Saturday, Mar. 3rd, 5-30 p.m. Concert. Harpist: Mrs. GEORGE MORLEY.  
Singer: Mrs. PETER SMALL.

Wednesday, Mar. 7th, 8-15 p.m.—"The World's Economic Unity."  
SIR GEORGE PAISH.

Wednesday, Mar. 14th, 8-15 p.m.—"National Economy." Mrs. OGLIVIE  
GORDON, J.P., D.Sc., Ph.D. Chairman: Mr. NORMAN MORRISON.

Wednesday, Mar. 21st, 8-15 p.m. Debate: "The Dominant Sex." Miss  
NINA BOYLE. Chairman: Dr. JOSIAH OLDFIELD.

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MISS MONICA WHATLEY, and others.

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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  
55, Berners Street, W. 1.

## A MEETING

In support of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance Congress in Rome

(May 12th-19th, 1923), will be held at the

SUBSCRIPTION LIBRARY, Prince Arthur Road, Hampstead

(Two minutes from Hampstead Tube Station)

On WEDNESDAY, February 28th, at 8 p.m.

Speakers: Mrs. G. F. ABBOTT

(Editor, International Woman Suffrage News)

Mrs. HERABAI TATA (Bombay)

Mr. JOSEPH CLAYTON

Miss Kathleen FitzGerald, B.A., in the Chair.

Entrance Free.

Doors open 7-30 p.m.

## The International Woman Suffrage News

The Monthly Organ of

THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

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