

THE
Catholic Citizen

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

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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 Justice of Equal Franchise.

"To none will we deny, to none will we sell, to none will we delay the right of justice."

Magna Charta.

By LEONORA DE ALBERTI.

The people of the British Isles claim with pride that their constitution goes back to Anglo-Saxon days. From time to time certain sections of the community have risen in protest against a denial of these rights; but they laid claim to nothing new, they demanded an extension to themselves of rights and privileges already enjoyed by certain other sections of the community. "From Hengist to Victoria (we may now say to George V), England has always had what we may fairly call a parliamentary constitution. Normans, Tudors, and Stuarts, might suspend or weaken it, but they could not sweep it away. From the thirteenth century onward we have a veritable Parliament, essentially as we see it before our own eyes. In the course of the fourteenth century every fundamental constitutional principle becomes fully recognised." (Freeman, *The Continuity of English History*.)

The roots of the present lie deep in the past, wrote Stubbs, and proclaimed a truth borne in upon every student of history.

Magna Charta still remains the mainspring of English liberties. The great Charter not only put a limit to the power of the monarch, it protected the liberty of the subject, it embodied the principle that taxation without representation is a tyranny. Its main clause

declares: "To none will we deny, to none will we sell, to none will we delay, the right of justice." Yet in spite of this proud boast, for how long was justice denied to all Englishwomen, and for how much longer, may we ask, is it still to be denied to large sections of Englishwomen? Nearly eight years have passed since the passing of the Representation of the People Act. Women accepted for a time the fantastic franchise it conferred on them. Suffragists accepted that franchise law, because it did establish the principle of woman suffrage, and it was made clear that no other way was open to them.

But they accepted under protest; they in their turn made it clear that it was understood to be a temporary measure; and in accepting the limited franchise the societies pledged themselves to continue their work till equality was established.

It is, perhaps, unnecessary to remind our readers that the discrimination in age is not the only inequality in our franchise law. The parliamentary franchise for women is based on the Local Government qualification. That is to say, women who have reached the age of thirty, who have, or whose husbands have, a local government vote, are also

entitled to a parliamentary vote. This rules out all women living in furnished apartments; which means that a very large percentage of professional and industrial women are disfranchised. It also rules out daughters living at home, unless they can show that the furniture of the room they occupy belongs to them. A woman may qualify for a local government vote at twenty-one, but for a parliamentary vote, she must wait till she is thirty. On the other hand, a man's parliamentary vote is based on residence only, whether he occupies furnished or unfurnished rooms, and he can claim a vote at twenty-one. These are the main discrepancies, and they are sufficiently foolish.

They are more than foolish, they are exceedingly unjust. In the March of 1924, when Mr. Adamson's Equal Franchise Bill was before the House, Miss Jewson, in seconding it, said that it was estimated that 70 per cent. of wage-earning women are under the age of thirty.

Laws are passed regulating women's work, restricting women's work, and affecting women in many ways, and they are passed over the heads of approximately six million women, disfranchised by our absurd franchise system.

At the last General Election, October 1924, the Labour and Liberal Parties having stated that they were in favour of Equal Franchise between men and women, Mr. Baldwin issued the following statement to the press: "The Unionist Party is in favour of equal political rights for men and women, and desire that the question of the extension of the franchise should, if possible, be settled by agreement. With this in view they would, if returned to power, propose that the matter should be referred to a Conference of all political parties on the lines of the Ullswater Committee."

We are not enamoured of a Conference, but even the Conference does not seem to be materialising. Mr. Briant, Miss Wilkinson, and Mr. Pethick Lawrence, have asked questions about the granting of Equal Franchise, and the answers have been very unsatisfactory. Mr. Baldwin says the Government is still young; but mishaps occur to the most powerful governments, and we earnestly beg him to redeem his pledge, while there is time.

In February, 1925, Mr. Whiteley introduced a Franchise Bill, and in moving the

rejection, the Home Secretary quoted Mr. Baldwin's pledge. He stated that the Conference referred to could be set up in 1926, and any legislation arising from it could be introduced in 1927.

The societies pressed the Government to include Equal Franchise in the King's Speech this year. Mr. Baldwin has again turned a deaf ear to the appeal. Yet Governments must yield to pressure, and women are tired of being put off with promises, which never ripen to fulfilment. That is the reason why all the societies are uniting in one final attack, which will continue till Equal Franchise is safe on the Statute Book.

The Paris Congress.

The enthusiasm aroused by our meeting on February 25, when Mme. Malaterre-Sellier and Mrs. Corbett-Ashby urged on us all the supreme importance of the great International Suffrage Congress to be held in Paris during the first week in June, was, of course, limited to those who were fortunate enough to be present. And I would like to appeal to that wider audience of our members who could not hear the eloquent words of our speakers to realise how keen we are that St. Joan's Alliance should make a definite contribution to the success of the Congress. This can be done in two ways: by sending, in addition to our official representatives, a strong contingent of English Catholic women to meet the women of many lands with not a few Catholic women among them, and secondly, by subscribing towards the heavy expenses of organisation. Already at our own meeting, the sum of £10, which was the minimum we were pledged to contribute, was happily subscribed in the hall, but I feel sure that other members may be glad to contribute their mite to this important object. All such contributions should go to our treasurer, while Miss Barry will be delighted to send all details concerning hotels, etc., to anyone proposing to join our St. Joan's contingent in Paris from May 30 to June 6. The week will certainly be a strenuous one, but full of vital interest, and we hope and believe that, held as it will be in France, it will hasten the day when the women of the Latin countries will gain their long-delayed political enfranchisement.

V. M. CRAWFORD.

Notes and Comments.

We hope all our readers will make every possible effort to attend the Equal Franchise Meeting, to be held under the auspices of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance at Caxton Hall, Westminster, on April 29, at 8 p.m. As we have already announced, His Lordship the Bishop of Pella, Dame Millicent Fawcett, Sir Robert Newman, M.P., and Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., will be the chief speakers. Miss Barclay Carter will also be among the speakers. April 29 seems a long way ahead, but we ask our members and readers to keep the date free, and to show their love of justice by supporting the meeting.

* * * *

Miss Bertha Mason, in the *Women's Leader*, reminds readers that in some districts Elections for Urban, Rural, District Councils and Boards of Guardians, will take place at the end of March. She deplors the apathy and indifference of electors to the work of local government authorities; the more difficult to understand because the health, happiness and comfort of thousands are dependent upon the manner in which these authorities discharge their duties. Miss Mason also points out that the number of women serving on district councils is deplorably small, especially on urban district councils, of which there are 800. It appears that between 600 and 700 of these are composed solely of men. We echo her appeal to women to come forward as candidates.

* * * *

We are grateful to those members of the London County Council who endeavoured to obtain fair play for married women teachers, when the question of their employment was being discussed recently by the Education Committee of the L.C.C. Sir Harry Stephen moved, and Miss Agnes Dawson seconded, the reference back of the Report for further consideration. Unfortunately, the voting went mostly on party lines, but we are grateful to the six members of the Municipal Reform party, who defended the right of married women to decide for themselves: Mrs. Hopkins, Dr. Adeline Roberts, Miss Rosamund Smith, Sir Harry Stephen, Miss Kate Wallas, and Mrs. Worsthome. Among Catholic members of the Council, we regret

that Sir John Gilbert led the opposition, but we note with pleasure that Mrs. C. J. Mathew and Father Mahoney both voted in favour of the reference back.

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Upon the suggestion of the Women's International League, a "Peace-makers' Pilgrimage" in favour of arbitration is being organised, on the lines of the Suffrage Pilgrimage of the past. Groups of people from various towns will make a pilgrimage to London, holding meetings by the way, to awaken public opinion on the world's dire need for peace, and the settling of disputes by arbitration. Many societies are uniting with The Women's International League, to make the campaign a success. The League of Nations Union is also lending its support. The pilgrimage will end in Hyde Park on June 19.

* * * *

We regret that the *Correspondance Internationale* should so misunderstand the purpose of Lady Astor's Bill as to suppose that its aim is to allow a prostitute free play to ply her trade without police opposition. All that we ask, or Lady Astor asks, is, that prostitutes should be entitled to the same justice as other offenders. That if arrested for molesting, the person who is molested should appear against her. We do not complain that she is arrested for a breach of public order, what we ask is that proper evidence should be forthcoming that there has been a breach of public order. That is English justice, and all His Majesty's subjects are entitled to claim it.

* * * *

It is with deep regret we record the death of Mr. J. W. Johnson, C.M.G., a keen supporter of the equality of the sexes. Mr. Johnson, a Vice-President of the Association of Moral and Social Hygiene, was a staunch opponent of State Regulation of Vice, and a follower of Josephine Butler. He was particularly interested in the Solicitation Laws, and drafted a Bill on the subject. His death is a great loss to us all, and we offer our deep sympathy to his wife and family.—R.I.P.

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 BRANDT.
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MISS HARLEY BACON.
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 MISS WALL.
 MISS WHATELY.
 MISS ISABEL WILLIS, Hon. Press Secretary.

International Notes.

La Française announces that the Duchesse d'Uzès is once again a member of the executive committee of the French Woman Suffrage Union, and has been elected Présidente d'honneur of the Society.

* * * *

Melle Van den Plas, in the *Féminisme Chrétien de Belgique*, gives frank expression to the disappointments of 1925 from the point of view of Belgian suffragists. Women have not yet been accorded the long-delayed Provincial vote. They have been the sport of political opportunism in all parties, and Socialists and Catholics alike are to blame for the fact that in the end the Senate rejected the enfranchising amendment by one vote!

* * * *

We learn from *Equal Rights* that the appointment of Miss Jessie Dell—already referred to in these Notes—as National Civil Service Commissioner, the highest and best-paid post ever offered to a woman in the United States, was publicly protested against by an anti-feminist body called the Woman Patriot Publishing Co. In this way the whole question of her appointment was brought before the Senate which, after full investigation, confirmed it unanimously. Thus a spiteful attack on a singularly able woman has happily ended in a fresh feminist victory. Miss Dell's many friends are about to give a dinner in her honour.

* * * *

The women of the "Little Entente"—reports the *Mouvement Féministe*—held an

annual congress, which met in Athens last December. Women delegates attended from Roumania, Tcheko-Slovakia, Yugo-Slavia and Greece, only Polish women being unrepresented. The Congress lasted several days and discussed various practical questions, the greatest division of opinion being on the subject of divorce. The women of the two more Catholic countries, Roumania and Tcheko-Slovakia, held out strongly against divorce facilities, while the Greeks and Yugo-Slavs advocated a more tolerant attitude. A crowded public meeting to promote international peace was a feature of the Congress.

* * * *

The "Journées sociales," organised year by year by the Action Sociale de la Femme, will take place this year in Paris from May 3 to 5, and the subject will be Education, more especially in relation to the "jeune fille."

* * * *

Dr. Anna Herde contributes to *Die Christliche Frau* a long and thoughtful article on the changes in the practice of Christian charity due to the wide official organisation of social and economic needs, and urges that we must all be on the lookout for new ways of exercising the Christian virtue. She specially begs married women to give personal help and friendship to girls who have got into trouble or who are leading lonely and unprotected lives.

V. M. C.

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance.

14th ANNUAL REPORT, 1925.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The year 1925 has brought some measure of success to the feminist movement. Several Bills which the societies, including, of course, our own Alliance, have worked in support of for many years, have reached the Statute Book. The Equal Guardianship of Infants Act, the Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance) Act, and the Pensions Act, which gives pensions to widows with dependent children. None of these Bills are perfect, they do not go as far as we should wish, but they are an advance—a step towards final success. This year young women were given for the first time an opportunity for competing with young men in the Civil Service, in examinations for the Higher Grades, in the administrative branch of the Service. Three women came out high on the list of successful candidates.

Lord Birkenhead's Act—the Administration of Estates Act—which came into operation in January, sweeps away many of the anomalies of our inheritance laws, and in the case of intestacy, places women on an equality with men, giving no preference to husbands over wives, or males over females.

We have yet to secure Equal Franchise, upon which the societies are concentrating this year. Lord Astor's Bill to enable Peeresses in their own right to take their seats in the House of Lords, was defeated by one vote. Equal Pay seems as far off as ever; and married women's right to paid work has still to be established. Lady Astor's Public Places (Order) Bill called attention to the injustice of the solicitation laws, and may lead to a reform which has been long deferred. Miss Wilkinson's Bill for enforcing the appointment of Women Police, has helped to advertise the need of more police-women; outside of London only eighty women police are employed.

These are some of the reforms for which we have still to work. We need more members, and we need more funds. A great amount of work has been done in the year, but still more could be done, if there were more workers in the field.

The Thirteenth Annual Meeting was held at Women's Service House, 35 Marsham St., S.W. 1, on Saturday, March 14, Councillor Mrs. V. M. Crawford, chairman, presiding. The adoption of the Annual Report was moved by Miss F. de G. Merrifield, and seconded by Miss Barclay Carter; the adoption of the Financial Statement was moved by Miss Mackintosh, and seconded by Miss Monica O'Connor.

The following resolutions were moved from the Chair and carried nem. con.:

1. *Equal Franchise*.—St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance deeply deplores the action of the Government in postponing the granting of equal franchise to men and women, and calls upon the Government to introduce and pass through all its stages, a Bill giving votes to women on the same terms as to men.
2. *Solicitation Laws*.—St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to carry out both in letter and in spirit, the ideal of an equal moral standard in the laws of this country, and therefore demands the immediate repeal of the present solicitation laws which are directed solely against women.
3. *State Regulation of Vice*.—St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to abolish the system of regulated prostitution or tolerated brothels throughout the Crown Colonies of Hong Kong and the Straits Settlements, and warns the Government that British women will not tolerate, on any pretext whatever, any attempt to re-introduce the periodic compulsory medical examination of women.
4. *Equal Pay*.—St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to establish throughout the Civil Service, a system of equal pay and opportunities for men and women.

5. *Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, 1919.*—St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to amend this Act, so that in practice 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 or assuming any civil profession or vocation, or from admission to any incorporated society (whether incorporated by Royal Charter or otherwise), and a person shall not be exempted by sex from the liability to serve as a juror.
6. *Equal Guardianship.*—St. Joan's S.P.A. regrets that the Guardianship of Infants Bill, 1925, does not specifically give mothers equal guardianship with fathers over their children, and calls upon the Government so to amend the Bill as to confer this equality.
7. *Widows' Pensions.*—St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to introduce an adequate system of pensions for widows with dependent children.
8. *Separation and Maintenance.*—St. Joan's S.P.A. welcomes the introduction of the Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance) Bill, and urges the Government to include a clause making the adultery of either husband or wife a ground for a separation order.
9. *Legitimacy.*—St. Joan's S.P.A. welcomes the introduction of the Legitimacy Bill, and urges the Government to give facilities for its early passage into law.
10. *Women Police.*—St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Home Secretary to urge all police authorities to carry out as early as possible the recommendations of the Departmental Committee on the employment of women police.
11. *Birth Control.*—St. Joan's S.P.A. welcomes the statement of the Minister of Health that he will not authorise welfare centres receiving Government grants to give information on artificial birth control to women attending these centres, and expresses its determination to oppose the expenditure of any public money for such purposes.

Miss Mary Wall was elected to fill an existing vacancy on the Committee.

AT HOMES.

It being suggested to the Committee that members had not many opportunities of meeting one another, a series of At Homes was given by members of the Alliance.

The first, by Lady Laughton and Miss L. de Alberti, at Fawcett Street, S.W. 10, to enable members of the district and new members to meet the Committee.

The next was given by Miss Eleanor FitzGerald, at Mecklenburgh Square, W.C. 1, on Sunday, May 17, members from New Zealand, Hungary and Spain, being among the guests.

The third At Home was given by Miss Gorry, at 37 Woburn Square, W.C. 1, on Sunday, June 21; and the fourth by Miss Forbes Robertson, at St. Stephen's Road, W. 2. Unfortunately, Miss Forbes Robertson was taken ill beforehand, but would not allow the At Home to be postponed, Miss Grace Bumpstead acting as hostess in her place.

The last At Home was given by Mrs. V. M. Crawford, at St. John's Wood, in October, to enable the Committee to meet two colleagues from Australia: Miss McMahon and Mrs. Hunter.

DINNER TO FATHER HALL AND MISS KATHLEEN FITZGERALD, B.A.

On Thursday, June 10, St. Joan's S.P.A. gave a Dinner at the Rendezvous, in honour of Father H. F. Hall, who had recently celebrated his Silver Jubilee, and of Miss FitzGerald, B.A., for many years Chairman of the Society.

Mrs. V. M. Crawford, in proposing the toast of Father Hall, spoke of his long association with the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society. He was a friend of suffrage long before it was respectable to be so. Suffragists were particularly grateful to Father Hall for the part he had played at the International Women's Suffrage Congress at Geneva in 1920, when at the Mass offered at the Church of Notre Dame for the Congress, he preached a special sermon in support of the woman's movement and the Congress.

Father Hall, in replying, said it had always been a great pleasure to him to be associated with the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, now St. Joan's S.P.A.

In the absence of the Hon. Mrs. Walter Roch, through indisposition, Miss Fedden proposed the toast of Miss FitzGerald. After reading Mrs. Roch's regrets and her appreciation of Miss FitzGerald's services to the woman's cause, and the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society in particular. Miss Fedden spoke eloquently of Miss FitzGerald's services to the Society, and reminded her audience that she had been the first chairman, and for many years had steered the Society through perilous waters.

Miss FitzGerald, in replying, gave a brief outline of the early days of the Society and of the dangers and troubles it had encountered. Though retiring from the chairmanship of the Society, she would always take a great interest in its welfare. Her motto to St. Joan's S.P.A. was: "Never give up." Women were not being regarded as citizens when they were still being told how to dress; this evoked great applause.

MEETING AT THE EMERSON CLUB.

On October 24, the Alliance held a meeting at the Emerson Club, when Mrs. Beer, M.A., gave a report of the Luxembourg Congress, and Miss Fedden of the Conference of the National Council of Women at Birmingham, which they had attended respectively as delegates of St. Joan's S.P.A. The chair was taken by our member, Mrs. C. J. Mathew, L.C.C., J.P., this being the first occasion we have had the pleasure of welcoming Mrs. Mathew among us.

MEETINGS ON WIDOWS' PENSIONS.

Since the passing of the new Pensions' Act, Mrs. Crawford and Mrs. Liveing have addressed Mothers' Meetings to explain the new Act, at The Sisters of Charity Convent, Wigmore Street; St. Edward's Convent, Harewood Avenue; Convent of Mercy, Haselwood Crescent; St. Patrick's, Soho; Sisters of Charity, Commercial Road, E.; Sisters of Mercy, Bermondsey, and the North Camberwell Women's Co-operative Guild. Mrs. Liveing has dealt with many inquiries at the office from various parts of the country.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

During the L.C.C. Elections in March, prospective candidates were questioned as to the compulsory retirement on marriage of employees of the Council. Our member, Mrs. C. J. Mathew, J.P. (Labour), was

elected for the Limehouse division of Stepney.

At the Borough Council Elections the same question about married women was put to the various candidates. Three of our members were elected: Miss Fortey, J.P. (Labour), Leicester; Mrs. V. M. Crawford (Labour), Marylebone; Mrs. Russell, J.P. (Ratepayers' Association), Hampstead. The London candidates were helped by members of the Alliance.

CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER SOCIETIES.

Miss Fedden represented us at the Annual Conference of the National Council of Women in Birmingham, and moved the following resolution on behalf of St. Joan's S.P.A.:

"This Council, believing that the laws and their administration should uphold the Equal Moral Standard, asks the Government to appoint a Committee of Inquiry into the whole subject of the laws dealing with street solicitation; and is further of opinion that the sections specially directed against 'common prostitutes' should be repealed, and an equal law be substituted applicable to all persons who annoy or molest others in the streets or public places."

Miss Alison Neilans, of the Association of Moral and Social Hygiene, seconded. The resolution was carried, with one dissentient.

Miss Fedden was also our representative at the International Conference of Women in Science, Industry, and Commerce, held at Wembley in July.

Miss Whately represented the Alliance at the meeting on Child Welfare, organised by the International Council of Women and the Save the Children Fund, held in London during International Week, and signed the Children's Charter on our behalf.

Miss de Alberti represented the Alliance at the meeting convened by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, to enable representative women to meet the Duchess of Atholl, M.P., before she left to attend the Assembly of the League of Nations, as substitute delegate for Great Britain.

Miss L. de Alberti and Miss Barry represented us at the Conference of the British Commonwealth League, held at the Caxton Hall in July.

Miss Wall was our representative at the Dinner given at the Forum Club by the

British Commonwealth League, in honour of Mrs. McKinnon, substitute delegate for Australia to the Sixth Assembly of the League.

Miss Barry represented us at a farewell lunch given by the British Commonwealth League for representatives from South Africa and Bermudas on the eve of their departure from this country.

At two meetings of the Consultative Committee of Women's Organisations, Miss A. M. F. Cole moved a resolution on behalf of the Alliance against the export of live horses for butchery. The resolution, passed at the first Autumn Meeting, was signed by 16 Societies.

Miss Hynes represented us at the Albert Hall meeting convened by the National Playing Fields Association, urging the need for the provision of more playing fields.

Miss Fedden represented the Alliance at the Garden Party held in July in honour of Dame Millicent Fawcett, G.B.E., L.L.D., to congratulate her on the honour recently conferred on her.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS FOR PEACE.

Mrs. Margrieta Beer, M.A., was delegate for St. Joan's S.P.A. at the Fifth Democratic Congress for Peace held at Luxemburg in September, under the presidency of Marc Sangnier. Mrs. Beer spoke at the general meeting, at which social questions were discussed, and dealt with economic problems, and the international action which is best calculated to solve them. Mrs. Beer was included in the delegation received by the Prime Minister.

DEPUTATIONS.

Mrs. V. M. Crawford represented the Alliance on the Deputation to the Minister of Health, organised by the N.U.S.E.C., to discuss the Widows' Pensions Scheme; and at the Conference on the same subject, Miss Wall being our second delegate on the latter occasion. Mrs. Crawford also represented us on the Deputation to the Home Secretary in support of Miss Wilkinson's Bill to enforce the appointment of Women Police by Watch Committees; and also on the Deputation arranged by the Association of Moral and Social Hygiene, received by the Home Secretary in November, which made a united request for the appointment by the

Government of a Committee of Enquiry, to take evidence and report on the state of the streets and public places in regard to solicitation for immoral purposes, and on the law and its administration in connection with this subject.

LETTERS AND RESOLUTIONS.

During the course of the year letters and resolutions have been sent to the Premier and Authorities concerned upon many subjects, amongst others, Equal Franchise; a resolution pressing for the insertion of a clause in the Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance Bill), making adultery of either husband or wife a ground for a separation order in a Court of Summary Jurisdiction. In this we received the support of the Catholic Social Guild and the Catholic Women's League. In connection with the proposed Factory Act, we supported the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, in asking the Home Secretary to receive a deputation, and issued in our own name the following resolution:

"St. Joan's S.P.A. stands for equality as between men and women in industrial legislation. It opposes all so-called 'protective' legislation which applies to women and not to men, believing that all such restrictions should be based on the type of work and not on the sex of the worker."

St. Joan's S.P.A. addressed a letter to the Secretary of the Royal Commission on Lunacy and Mental Disorder, calling attention to the urgent need for more women to be appointed to the Board of Control; for Women Doctors to be appointed to all public Hospitals having women patients; and for women to be appointed on the Visiting Committees of Public Mental Hospitals. There are two women on this Commission: our member, Mrs. C. J. Mathew, J.P., and Miss Madeleine Symons, J.P.

We also wrote to the Ministry of Health protesting against the small share of higher posts allotted to women by the Minister of Health for the administration of Widows' Pensions.

St. Joan's S.P.A. is affiliated to the Catholic Citizens' Parliament, International Woman Suffrage Alliance, the National Council of Women, the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations, the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, and the Women's Advisory

Council of the League of Nations Union. Representatives of the Alliance serve on the Committee of the British Commonwealth League; the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations, and the National Council of Women's Sectional Committees, Parliamentary and Legislative, Rescue and Preventive, and Industrial. Members of the Committee have had the pleasure of attending the "At Homes" kindly given by Lady Astor, to enable representative women to meet Members of Parliament.

CATHOLIC CITIZEN.

The *Catholic Citizen* attained its tenth birthday in January last, and a Soirée, organised by Miss Whately in honour of Miss L. de Alberti, as a tribute to her ten years' devoted work as honorary editor of the *Catholic Citizen*, was given at the Emerson Club in February. Letters of appreciation of the Alliance and the *Catholic Citizen* were read from Dame Millicent Fawcett, G.B.E., L.L.D., Fr. Arthur Day, S.J., Fr. Bede Jarrett, O.P., Fr. Keating, S.J., Fr. Herbert Thurston, S.J., Fr. Martindale, S.J., Lady Astor, M.P., and Mrs. Wintringham. Mrs. Corbett Ashby, President of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, sent a beautiful bowl of hyacinths in St. Joan's colours, thanking Miss de Alberti, on behalf of all her colleagues of the I.W.S.A., "for her untiring work for the woman's cause." An excellent concert was given by the following artistes: Miss Harley Bacon, 'cello; Viscountess Dupplin and Mrs. Whately, songs; Mrs. Keyser and Miss Eleanor Fitzgerald gave some delightful recitations.

Mrs. V. M. Crawford presided, and among the distinguished guests were Professor Don Luigi Sturzo, founder of the Italian Popular Party; Mrs. Halford Hewitt, President of the Catholic Women's League; Miss Kathleen Fitzgerald, and Lady Laughton.

We have again to thank many contributors to the *Catholic Citizen*, who give ungrudgingly of their professional knowledge, thus enabling us to keep up the high standard of our paper. The *Catholic Citizen* travels to every quarter of the globe, and has subscribers in many lands. It is exchanged with feminist papers in almost every country, and also with many Catholic papers.

HON. PRESS SECRETARY'S REPORT.

A Report on the Progress of Women during the year 1924 was contributed to the *Catholic Herald* in January last.

During the Spring a correspondence on the subject of Equal Pay was carried on in *The Catholic Times* for a considerable time; the Hon. Press Secretary contributing five letters to the discussion in the course of the months of February and March.

Dom Bede Camm having written to *The Tablet* urging reasons against the claim made by French women to the Parliamentary vote, the Hon. Press Secretary took advantage of the occasion to write a letter to that paper urging the justice of the claim, and showing the good that had resulted in those countries where it had been already granted.

In September last she wrote to the Editor of *The Woman's Leader* protesting in the name of St. Joan's S.P.A. against the attitude taken by that paper in favour of "Birth Control." The Editor of the *Catholic Citizen* also wrote to *The Woman's Leader* on the same subject, dissociating feminism from Birth Control.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

The year 1925 was a disappointing one financially. Not only was no headway made, but subscriptions fell off to the extent of £7 18s. 1d. This by no means signifies any stagnation in the work of the Alliance, the bulk of which has increased enormously, as can be judged from the report, and would be testified by all who come in contact with the office. But the expansion has only been achieved by the most rigid cutting down of every item of expenditure, and such economy has been carried to a fine art in the past year. No further reduction is possible, and members are earnestly asked to reflect that unless the Alliance receives wider and more generous support in 1926, it will be impossible for it to carry on an effective campaign in the cause of "Equal Suffrage" and other urgent reforms.

STALLS AT BAZAARS.

The Alliance had stalls at Westminster Cathedral Hall, at the Sale organised by the Women's Exchange; at the Green, White and Gold Fair, organised by the Women's

Freedom League; and the Christmas Sale at Dean's Yard, organised by the N.U.S.E.C. The proceeds of the stalls and office sales amounted to £55 12s. 4d.

We offer our cordial thanks to all who made this success possible, by sending contributions; also to the stall assistants, the waitresses, those who took charge of the Kitchen at the first sale, and to Miss Foot who lent her car for the conveyance of goods to the Hall.

The Alliance is particularly indebted to Miss Mary Wall, who throughout the year has given her services in character delineations at Bazaars, At Homes, the *Catholic Citizen* Soirée, etc., and thereby added a considerable sum to our funds. Also to Miss C. Connolly, of "The Bureau of Ways and Means," who has saved us much expense by generously multigraphing many circular letters to be sent to our members.

We have also to thank our valiant outdoor paper sellers, Miss Franklin for taking charge of the Press Book, and last, but not least, to all those who have helped in the Office, particularly Miss Hynes and Mrs. Liveing, who have generously given regular weekly help in the Office.

We offer our congratulations to our member, Miss O. Watson, who has entered the Order of the Good Shepherd.

VISITORS TO THE OFFICE.

Besides many visitors to the Office from Great Britain, we have had the pleasure of welcoming Miss McMahon and Mrs. Hunter (Australia), Miss Henderson (New Zealand), Miss Carroll (Ireland), The Rev. Pierre Charles, S.J. (Professor of Theology at Louvain University), Père Lallemand, S.J. (Belgium), Fraülein Mleinch, Fraülein Schuckert (Organisation of Women Clerks, Berlin), Signora Crespi Oliva (Italy).

OBITUARY.

We record with deep regret the death of our members, Mrs. Geoffrey Birkbeck, Mrs. Jordan, Miss Killin, and Mrs. H. Reynolds.—R.I.P.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

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

The year has been one of continued progress. The Branch was able to hold six ordinary meetings, the subjects and speakers being as follows: "The Work of Headquarters," by Miss Barry; "Mussolini and Fascism," by Mrs. V. M. Crawford; "The History of the Alliance," by Miss N. S. Parnell; "The Settlement Movement," by Miss Wells, Warden of Victoria Settlement; "Women Police," by Miss Broom; and a meeting of the members to discuss the Sale of Work. In addition to these meetings, members attended a Retreat at the Cenacle, and enjoyed a pleasant day together at Chester, and an Impromptu Social just before the Summer Holidays. To meet the financial needs of the Branch, an American Tea was held in January, and a Sale of Work in December, which realised respectively, £3 10s. and £13. Numerous resolutions were passed and forwarded to the proper quarters dealing with Equal Franchise, the need for Women on Hospital Boards, Widows' Pensions, Women Police, Equal Pay and Opportunities, the Solicitation Laws, and on Birth Control. The Committee beg to thank Mrs. Finn, Mrs. Gordon, Mrs. Parnell, and Miss Sevenoaks, for the use of their drawing-rooms during the year, without which the Branch would have been unable to have held so many meetings. The Committee met nine times during the year. The best thanks of the Committee and Members are due to Miss F. Jervis for her arduous work as Honorary Secretary, and to all those who helped to make the Sale of Work such a success.

We congratulate our Vice-Chairman, Dr. Isabel Collier, on her marriage to Mr. Powell Heath on June 6. Her departure from Liverpool was a great loss to the Branch, but our loss is a gain at Headquarters.

With very deep regret we have to record the death of Miss Molly Short, at one time our Honorary Secretary. Mass was offered by request of our members for the repose of her soul at the Oratory of St. Philip Neri.—R.I.P.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

Hon. Sec., Miss N. S. Parnell, B.A., 45 Falkner St., Liverpool

The Branch held a very successful meeting on February 10th at the Sandon Studios when Miss Alison Neilans, secretary of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, addressed members and friends on "Laws Dealing with Street Solicitation." After her speech a resolution was passed urging the Government to hold a Committee of Inquiry into the subject and to alter those sections of the law which encouraged the idea of a double moral standard.

The Branch also participated in the Equal Franchise Demonstration on March 9th, arranged by the Liverpool Women Citizens' Association. Miss Parnell being one of the speakers.

The next meeting will be on March 18th, at 7-30 p.m., when Mrs. Corbett Ashby, President of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, will be the speaker. It is hoped that every member will attend and will bring a friend with her to the Rushworth Rooms, 13 Islington.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS.

1st February—1st March 1926.

	£	s.	d.
Anderson, Mrs. F.	...	2	6
*Barry, Miss F.	...	1	10
Bearman, Miss	...	2	6
Beer, Mrs.	...	5	0
Brandt, Miss	...	2	0
Branston, Miss	...	2	6
Busse, Miss	...	2	6
Butler Bowden, Miss	...	2	6
Campbell, Mrs. Gillies	...	3	6
Cassidy, Dr. Nora	...	3	0
Catton, Mrs. Leyden	...	1	0
Cockshutt, Miss	...	2	6
Cole, Miss A. M. F.	...	2	6
Connolly, the Misses	...	7	6
*Crawford, Mrs. V. M.	...	1	11
Crespi, Oliva Signora	...	2	6
Currie, Lady	...	2	6
de Bivort, Madame	...	5	6
Donovan, Misses B. and K.	...	5	0
Dorman, Miss A. L. P.	...	11	6
Duff, Miss Fraser	...	15	0
*Duff, Miss Fraser	...	2	6
Dupplin, Viscountess	...	5	0
Franklin, Miss	...	17	6
Gadsby, Miss B.	...	2	0
Gaffney, Mrs.	...	2	6
Gorry, Miss	...	2	6
Guidi, Signorina	...	2	0
Hayes, Mrs.	...	2	0
Head, Mrs.	...	2	6
Hill, Mrs. Scott	...	1	8
Haggett, Mrs. and Miss	...	5	0
Hughes, Mrs.	...	0	2
Hynes, Miss S.	...	2	6
*Jeffery, Miss	...	1	10
Lambert, Miss C.	...	2	0
Marston, Mrs.	...	2	6
McCormick, Miss	...	3	6
Mills, E.C., Mrs. C.	...	5	6
Mort, Mrs.	...	2	6
O'Connor, Mrs.	...	2	6
O'Connor, Miss C.	...	2	0
O'Connor, Miss M.	...	1	0
O'Farrell, Miss	...	2	6
Ryan, Miss M.	...	2	6

Saint George, Mrs.	...	1	6
Sherwin, Miss C.	...	7	6
Singleton, Miss	...	1	0
Smith, Mrs. Yorke	...	1	6
Waldron, Mrs.	...	1	6
Whelan, Miss	...	2	6
Witty, Miss V.	...	12	6
Minimum annual subscriptions...	...	1	2
Total...	...	£14	19
		8	

*Donations to St. Joan's S.P.A. contribution to I.W.S.A. Congress.

Pageantry and Politics in London.

PLANS FOR A WOMEN'S DEMONSTRATION.

Processions seem rather to have gone out of fashion since the War, though most people remember the picturesque displays of the years before 1914. This summer, however, it seems that Londoners may look forward to a series of free pageants in their streets and parks. The latest to be arranged is a demonstration in support of Equal Political Rights for men and women, to be held on July 3, in which over 20 women's organisations have already agreed to take part. They include social and political groups like the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, the Six Point Group, the Women's International League, the League of the British Commonwealth, Saint Joan's Social and Political Alliance, the Women's Freedom League, the Women's Co-operative Guild and the Women's Guild of Empire, as well as professional associations like those of the Women Engineers, the Women Teachers, the Women Sanitary Inspectors and Health Visitors, and others. The International Suffrage Alliance has expressed its support for the movement. Among individual supporters are Lady Rhondda, Miss Ellen Wilkinson, Mrs. Drummond, Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Pankhurst.

The demonstration will take the form of a procession from the Embankment through Trafalgar Square to Hyde Park, where a mass meeting will be held. Seven of the most prominent women's organisations have agreed to take platforms, and some of the leading women speakers will be present to put the case for votes for women at 21 and equal franchise qualifications at all ages. The question is one which especially concerns women under 30, and special efforts are being made amongst the younger women to rally in force to the support of the demonstration.

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A PUBLIC MEETING

ON

EQUAL FRANCHISE

WILL BE HELD AT

CAXTON HALL, WESTMINSTER,

On THURSDAY, APRIL 29th, at 8 p.m.

SPEAKERS:

HIS LORDSHIP THE BISHOP OF PELLA.
DAME MILLICENT FAWCETT, G.B.E., LL.D.

SIR ROBERT NEWMAN, BART., M.P.

MISS ELLEN WILKINSON, M.P.

MISS BARCLAY CARTER, Lic.—ès—L.

COUNCILLOR MRS. V. M. CRAWFORD in the CHAIR.

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Admission Free.

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