

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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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 Export of Horses for Butchery, and a Departmental Enquiry.

By A. M. F. COLE.

The Ministry of Agriculture has held an Enquiry into the Conditions of the Export of Horses to the Continent. This Enquiry was suggested to Sir Guy Gaunt, when he undertook to introduce a Bill to stop the Export of Horses for Butchery, and we could only agree. On the one hand it meant the hanging up of our Bill indefinitely; on the other hand we knew that the evidence of cruelty in the traffic would be overwhelming, and must gain public support for our fight against it. We therefore asked that the Enquiry might be public, so that the Press might report evidence from day to day; but this was refused. We then insisted that the evidence should be published verbatim, and Lord Lambourne wrote this request to the Minister, who answered that this should be done "in view of the special circumstances of the case, and the necessity for the widest publicity of all the facts."

The Committee was appointed by the Ministry, and one member was, and is, actively and openly opposed to our campaign to stop the Export of Horses for Butchery. The appointment of Sir Guy Gaunt might have been intended to counterbalance this hostile member: but Sir Guy Gaunt had to resign before the first sitting of the Committee, and no single member represented

the Humane Societies.

The Enquiry began in March, and ended in July, and the Report and Evidence were published in October. The Report is sold at 1s., and the Evidence—a paper-covered book of 412 pages—at 30s.

The five witnesses who represented the R.S.P.C.A. were the General Secretary, to whom all reports are sent in; Mr. Harrison Brown, who came from Paris and spoke of Paris; an Inspector, who had just been to Paris, and who, owing to circumstances I must not divulge, was able to watch the Abattoir at Vaugirard; M. Ruhl, who came at the last moment from Brussels to give evidence about the film; and I, who am always occupied with the traffic, and had recently visited the different ports and Abattoirs where our horses are sent. Two men, and one woman, representing other Societies, had recently visited the Horse Abattoir at Vaugirard. We six witnesses reported that at that Abattoir horses are cruelly beaten to force them to enter slaughter sheds where they walk in blood, and between hanging, freshly-flayed carcasses. That they are killed with the hammer: some receiving several blows: some having their throats cut while they struggle to get up after the first blow. That injured horses, writhing and groaning

in pain, are most barbarously treated. That some horses in those stables are left for days without food; and that we had seen acts of deliberate cruelty. I reported that in Holland the quarantine stables are good, but that after leaving them horses are sold, generally in the Cattle Markets, and that we do not know where, or how, they are killed. That at Antwerp they are taken from the dock to a road, where they generally stand all day without food or water, and then start on foot for their places of slaughter, which may be at any distance. None are killed that day, and some, at least, will have neither food nor water. These and other present conditions I described in detail, carefully admitting changes and improvements since 1921 (improvements forced on the Ministry by public indignation).

We therefore deny absolutely that our campaign is "based very largely on a state of things which has ceased to exist." (Report, p. 27, par. 114.)

In spite of all our evidence about Vaugirard, the Committee found that "it would not be correct or just to say that Vaugirard is conducted in anything but a humane manner" (p. 18, par. 70).

The terrible report in the *Morning Post*, verifying all our evidence, and my reports since June, 1924, is in sharp contradiction to this conclusion of the Committee. Because I first drew attention to the conditions at Vaugirard, I am turned out as soon as I am seen there: and for some time now every visitor, not engaged in the trade, is ordered out: unless he comes with police authorisation, which means that the authorities are warned of the impending visit. We knew members of the Committee visited Vaugirard, and other ports and abattoirs, and saw satisfactory conditions everywhere, so I made a round after them, and heard a good deal about their very private visits. When, as usual, I was turned out of Vaugirard, I asked: "Why did you not turn out those gentlemen who were here lately?" "Oh, Mademoiselle," they answered, "they had all authorisations."

In my article in the *Catholic Citizen*, September 1924, I described the terrible conditions of this traffic before the war. Week after week M. Ruhl, the great Belgian Humanitarian, and I, saw five or six hundred miserable horses landed at Antwerp, followed them by day and by night, and saw their

suffering from hunger and thirst, long tramps to death, and cruel killing. We knew that some of the most miserable were sold for vivisection, for the instruction of students, to the Brussels Veterinary College. No anæsthetic was given, but they were probably fixed in an apparatus that held them still. We knew, too, that every week in certain villages, a number of our horses were killed with the knife. M. Ruhl often followed them to kill them humanely, and he has found some just stabbed, and dying, before he could save them.

We thought if we could get a film of this traffic, the English public would insist on its being stopped. The R.S.P.C.A. readily agreed to pay expenses, and we engaged Pathé to take the film, and made all arrangements. (This was in February, 1914.) Bit by bit it was got, and the butchers did not know it was for us. To get the scene of killing with the knife, Pathé pretended that he was taking a film of all the different methods of slaughter in Belgium. At Terhagen and Rumpst, where this killing was filmed, horses were killed in that way every week, and always, as in this film, in the backyards behind small Cafés. Generally this killing excited no interest, but it is probable that some women and children, seeing the Operator with his apparatus, followed him, and so appeared in the film.

When the butchers found out that this film was for propaganda, they organised a demonstration against me at the Great Horse Market. I was aware of a sudden silence and stillness, and saw the great crowd there standing still, with their eyes fixed on me. After a few moments they broke into a storm of abuse and threats: to put me in the canal: or throw me down and trample on me.

In March, 1914, the film was shown in London to members of the Government and M.P.'s. The R.S.P.C.A. sent me a letter from Mr. Runciman, then Minister of Agriculture, asking if the slaughter film was of actual conditions. I wrote back inviting him to come, or send anyone he liked, any week he liked, to see it. He did not come, but the following month, in the House of Commons, he declared that the film was partly of ancient conditions: partly from

(Continued on p. 93.)

Notes and Comments.

The death of Queen Alexandra has removed from among us one who was revered for her nobility of character, her large-hearted charity, and genuine sympathy with suffering humanity. The whole nation has joined with the King and Royal Family in mourning the loss of the Queen Mother, who had endeared herself to the peoples of the British Empire.—R.I.P.

* * * *

We are glad to be able to give our readers an authoritative statement from Miss Cole on the abortive Enquiry into the disgraceful Traffic in Old Horses. In the interests of justice and fair play, let the evidence be sold at the same price as the Report.

* * * *

An influential deputation arranged by the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, representing 42 societies, was received by the Home Secretary on November 13. The deputation 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 administration connected with the question. The deputation urged that such a Committee of Enquiry should preferably be a select Committee, appointed by Parliament, rather than a departmental Committee appointed by the Home Office. Mrs. V. M. Crawford represented St. Joan's S.P.A. The deputation was introduced by Lord Muir Mackenzie, and among the speakers was His Lordship the Bishop of Pella.

Sir William Joynson-Hicks promised to give the matter his consideration within the next few weeks. At the same time, we may say that from our point of view the Home Secretary's attitude was unsatisfactory, and he appeared to be in favour of a Departmental Committee. We hope that he may yet be induced to alter his views.

* * * *

For the first time in its history, the Public Record Office counts a woman among its secretaries: Miss Smieton having taken up her duties a few weeks ago. There have been women editors of the catalogues: Mrs.

Lomas has held that position for a number of years, but this is the first time a woman has been on the official staff. Competitive examination has now made it possible.

* * * *

Father A. Gille, S.J., a Belgian, editor of the *Catholic Herald of India*, makes an urgent appeal in the *Universe* of November 13, for Catholic medical women and nurses for India. He believes the call can be answered only by British women, and by the help of British organisation. Continental missionaries, priests and nuns, he says, have approached the problem with a singularly narrow mind. There are dozens of medical women in India who are ready to serve any Catholic mission, provided they are at least fed and clothed, but there is absolutely no provision for the medical women. "A medical missionary woman frightens us; she makes us frantic. There is no room for her, she runs counter to our genius; she upsets our principles; she sounds incorrect." And so Father Gille, S.J., turns to British women, to smash panes and free locks, and open the first breach into Hinduism. We trust he will not appeal in vain.

* * * *

The opening date of the International Suffrage Congress in Paris has been altered to May 30, 1926. The change has been made to allow the Congress to be held at the Sorbonne, kindly placed at the disposal of the Congress by the Rector. So interesting a meeting place will add to the attractions of the Congress.

* * * *

In a letter to Miss Barry, Miss McMahon of Australia, says that it was a great pleasure to herself and Mrs. Hunter to meet members of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, and in thanking Miss Barry for going to see them off, says it made them feel that "England held more for us than we had realised." It was a great pleasure to us also to meet Miss McMahon and Mrs. Hunter, and we shall look forward to their next visit to London.

* * * *

The Women's Societies are preparing for the new campaign for Equal Franchise, and

(Continued on p. 94.)

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.

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Social Service.

The growth of a social conscience among lay workers has made enormous strides of late years. It has taken shape in varied ways, and has given rise to a new profession. The modern citizen is not content, as of old, to leave the care of his neighbour to the clergy, religious and philanthropic bodies, in whose hands, some were inclined to think, the question might well be left. To-day we have come to realise the connection between politics and social reform; and the good Samaritan, while ready to help those who have fallen by the way, pauses to consider whether juster laws might not ease his neighbour's position, and whether prevention is not better than cure. Such a law, for instance, as widows' pensions—the direct outcome in this country of women's enfranchisement—may well be called a great Act of Charity, using the latter word in its incorrupted sense.

The modern movement for social service has found an able chronicler in Miss Elizabeth Macadam, M.A. (*The Equipment of a Social Worker*. Allen & Unwin, 6s. net), who is well qualified for the task, and is indeed one of the pioneers of the movement in Great Britain. She is also Honorary Secretary of the Joint University Council for Social Studies. Miss Macadam's history covers a wide field, for the term social service is an extremely comprehensive term, embracing all kinds of welfare work, settlements, the work of policewomen, etc. As her title suggests, she is anxious that the social worker should be adequately trained. She

sees social service as a profession in the making, and would have candidates launched on their way from the Universities. "It is true," she says, "that only a small percentage of the students of schools of social study have been university graduates, and many have not even matriculated, but to accept this as final would be for ever to degrade social administration to a second-rate occupation requiring second-rate minds for its various services" (p. 53).

This is to assume that all great minds are able to enjoy a university education, and all second-rate minds are debarred therefrom, but this theory has no relation to fact. Whether a youth or maiden is to enjoy a university education does not depend at present on the quality of mind, but on the parental purse. It would be lamentable were all branches of social service to become a close preserve for university graduates, for, as Miss Macadam would be the first to admit, many things are required in a social worker, and our graduate, with a whole alphabet after his or her name, might fail, where a trained worker with no academic honours but equipped with experience, common sense and human sympathy, would succeed. By all means let training for social work be available, but let it be available to others besides university graduates.

Another book which will be of great use to persons interested in social work, is the *Handbook of Information*, published by the National Council of Social Service (*Public Social Services*, 2s.). The President, the

Rt. Hon. J. H. Whitley, P.C., M.P., says in his Foreword, that the scope of the book "is nothing less than the whole of our public provision for health, education, industry and employment, distress arising from unemployment or disease, old age or the disabilities of war, all come within its field in orderly arrangement. Its possession will save time and worry without end to every one who feels himself to be, in whatever degree, his brother's keeper."

We commend both these excellent works to our readers.

L. DE ALBERTI.

The Export of Horses for Butchery.

(continued)

photographs: partly from a sketch: and did not represent conditions at that time.

In 1922 I followed horses into those villages and found one just stabbed before we could save it. But since then the worst horses are slaughtered on this side, and the rate of exchange has forced those small butchers to buy carcasses, instead of live horses. So they only kill occasionally, and though we have every reason to believe that they still kill with the knife, we could not now tell anyone when and where to see that killing. Also the butchers know that we object to it, and would be very unlikely to allow a stranger to see it. Because it must be seldom now that an English horse is killed in that way, we scarcely mentioned it—except as a possibility—in our evidence, and we were astonished when the Committee threw doubt on the film of killing with the knife, and on the fact that horses ever were so killed, and produced affidavits, alleged to have been sworn by two slaughterers and a butcher, in March, 1914, that they were paid to kill two horses for that film! It is certainly curious that Mr. Runciman did not mention those affidavits in April, 1914. Also that the Committee seem to have been satisfied with copies. We are asking to see the originals.

M. Ruhl and I related what I have said here, with every possible detail. Two Belgian Government Veterinary Inspectors informed the Committee that horses were formerly killed in that way—one said "he thought it had been done," and the other that formerly "horses were stuck directly

with the knife" (proceedings 4642, 4623). A member of the Committee, when I was giving evidence, said to me: "There has never been any dispute that horses were killed with the knife in 1914." . . . "We never doubted that."

But our evidence, supported by the Belgian Inspectors, does not weigh against the copy of alleged affidavits, eleven years old, from butchers and slaughterers with all interest in the traffic. The Committee report that they have nothing that can be accepted as evidence that some butchers did kill with the knife: and that they are satisfied that the slaughterers were paid to kill two horses for the film. The member who never doubted that horses were killed in that way, signed the Report.

I do not fear that the English public will endorse these curious conclusions of the Committee: or cease to support our campaign for legislation to stop, once for all, the Export of Horses for Butchery.

ADMINISTRATION OF WIDOWS' PENSIONS.

The Women's Societies are justly indignant at the small share of higher posts which have been allotted to women by the Minister of Health for the Administration of Widows' Pensions. This is a new work, and one for which women are eminently suited, there is no excuse for giving all the higher posts to men. The London Society for Women Service has taken the matter up very warmly, and Societies are bombarding the Treasury and the Minister of Health with resolutions of protest.

CHRISTMAS SALES.

The total receipts from our Stall at the three Christmas Sales were £44 11s. 11d., and the expenses £5 5s. 7d. Donations in cash amounting to £13 12s. were also received. We congratulate all concerned on the great success of their efforts, which have cleared the Alliance and *Catholic Citizen* of a heavy debt of over £50, and enable us to face the New Year at least unhampered by unpaid bills. We thank one and all very heartily, and feel sure they will be gratified with the result.

G. JEFFERY.

International Notes.

Women's right to the municipal vote has, as is known, been at length conceded by the Italian Chambers. The report of the discussion in the Senate, as given in the *Corriere*, contains all the familiar arguments for and against the admission of women to the franchise. The practical points that emerge are that ultimately one and a half million women should enjoy the municipal vote, but as women voters are only inscribed at their own request, it is anticipated that barely half a million will vote in the first instance. None the less it is a beginning, and should lead to more.

* * * *

We learn from *La Lutte de la Femme* that Greek women have just won a fresh victory: women barristers, duly qualified, will be allowed to practise in the Courts. Japanese women also have gained a similar privilege. (See the I.W.S.A. News Service.)

* * * *

Stri Dharma reports an important step forward in the slow process of the political enfranchisement of the women in India. The Assembly has declared itself unanimously in favour of the reform, and the giving practical effect to the vote is now only a question of time. Meanwhile the women of Calcutta have been protesting vigorously to prevent the forbidding of mixed bathing in the Wellesley Square Tank. Mixed bathing, it appears, is an age-long custom in India and it would be really ludicrous if in these days a reactionary Board of Management were allowed to veto it.

* * * *

M. Carton de Wiart has introduced into the Belgian Chamber a Bill making it a misdemeanour, punishable by fine or imprisonment, for a man to desert wife and children, or to fail to pay on their behalf the allowance fixed by a magistrate. At present it would appear that wives and children have no legal remedy against desertion.

* * * *

Far the best account from the feminist point of view of the Sixth Assembly of the League of Nations that we have seen, appears in the Swiss *Mouvement Féministe*. It bears enthusiastic testimony to the splendid work women are doing in the League, but points

out regretfully that their numbers, whether as delegates or substitutes, have remained stationary for the last few years. Six women would seem to be growing into a traditional number! While Great Britain has been represented each year by a fresh woman delegate, other countries—Sweden, Denmark and Roumania—are year by year represented by the same women, who gain, of course, in experience and influence by their permanency.

* * * *

The *Correspondance Internationale*, published by the Action Populaire (Paris), gives a report of the International Congress for the Protection of Childhood, held recently in Geneva, and expresses its regret that no delegates from Catholic Leagues took part. It truly says that, "any appearance on our part of systematically shunning these gatherings is to pave the way for future regrets and to excite suspicions against ourselves, while leaving to others the merit and the benefit of beneficent initiatives."

V. M. C.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Annual Subscriptions to St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance and the "Catholic Citizen" fall due this month. By sending subscriptions in good time subscribers and members can save much labour at the Office. Subscription to "Catholic Citizen," 2/6; minimum subscription to the Alliance, 1/-. Members are asked to increase their subscription to the Alliance, as one shilling does not really cover even postage of notices in the year.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.—(Continued.)

over fifty societies, including St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, have issued a letter convening a meeting to consider the question of a Demonstration in Hyde Park next June, to demand Equal Franchise, and the eligibility of Peeresses in their own right to sit in the House of Lords.

Mrs. Crawford represented the Alliance on the Deputation which was received by the Home Secretary on December 7, to ask support for Miss Wilkinson's Bill to enforce the appointment of Women Police. The Women Societies are united in support of this question, and are anxious that the Government should be aware that they consider the matter of great importance.

Widows' Pensions.

We are asked by the Ministry of Health to call attention once again to the necessity of entering claims for Widows' Pensions immediately, otherwise it will not be possible for pensions to be paid on January 4.

Pensions for Widows whose Husbands, and Orphans whose parents have died before 4th January, 1926, will be payable on and from 5th January, 1926. A Widow whose Husband has died before 4th January, 1926, will not be entitled to a Pension unless she has a child living under the age of 14 on 4th January next.

1. *How to claim a Widow's or Orphan's Pension.* Obtain an Application Form at the nearest Post Office and complete it in accordance with the instructions on that form.

The Widow must have been resident in Great Britain since 4th January, 1924.

The Husband must have been insured under the Health Insurance Act and have paid 104 contributions, or he must have belonged to an insured trade.

A Widow should not delay her claim because she is not in possession of the relative birth, marriage or death certificates. The verifications will be obtained for her free of charge.

Widows at present in receipt of Poor Law relief should not fail to apply for pension under any mistaken idea that a pension would disentitle them to Poor Law relief, and that they would thus be worse off than they are at present. This is not the case: a widow in receipt of a pension may still apply for supplementary financial help from a Board of Guardians, though the Guardians would, of course, be justified in taking her pension into account in deciding what further allowance, if any, should be made.

Comparatively few claims have been sent in for orphans: that is, for children both of whose parents are dead. We are asked to call the attention of convents and other institutions for orphans to this. Pensions for orphans will be paid to the guardian or other person having charge of the child.

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance will

be glad to send a speaker to Mothers' Meetings, etc. Mrs. Crawford and Mrs. Living have spoken at meetings at the Sisters of Charity, Wigmore Street, St. Edward's Convent, Harewood Avenue, Convent of Mercy, Hazlewood Crescent, and at St. Patrick's, Soho, from which places we received applications.

Letters from widows, from various parts of the kingdom, have been dealt with at the Office, 55 Berners Street, W. 1, by Mrs. Living.

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* Christmas Sales.

CHRISTMAS SALES.

In addition to the above, we thank most heartily the following, who sent gifts for the Sales: Miss L. de Alberti, Mrs. Anderson, Miss N. Atkinson, Miss Bain, Miss Barry, Mrs. Beer, Miss Brandt, Miss de Bulnes, Miss Cameron, Miss B. Carter, Miss Clegg, Miss Cockshutt, Mrs. Crawford, Miss Cruttwell, Miss Fedden, Miss Gorry, Miss Havers, Mrs. Hayes, Mrs. J. Hayes, Miss Holmes, Mrs. A. J. Hughes, Miss Hynes, Miss Johnstone, Miss Mackintosh, Miss McMahon, Miss McManus, Miss Meredith, Miss Moclair, Miss Mott, Mrs. O'Connor, Miss O'Farrell, Misses Sherwin, Mrs. Shorto, Miss Slachta, Mrs. Smiley, Mrs. Sowerby, Miss Stack, Mrs. and Misses Stafford, Francis Tucker & Co., Ltd., Miss M. K. E. Walker, Miss Wall, Mrs. W. Walsh, Miss M. M. A. Ward, Miss I. Willis, Miss Witty, Mrs. Worters, Mme. de Zaro.

Special thanks are also due to the Kitchen Helpers who worked so valiantly to supply the refreshments at the Women's Exchange Sale: Miss Bain, Miss Cockshutt, Miss Gadsby, Miss Gorry, Mrs. Greenwood, Miss Hayes, Miss Johnstone, Mrs. O'Connor, Miss Stafford, and Miss Watts; also to Stall-assistants and waitresses, too numerous to mention individually, and to Miss Foot for so kindly lending her car for the conveyance of our goods to the hall, and to Miss Wall for her character delineations at all three Sales.

J. JEFFERY.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE.

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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.

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By D. M. HUGHES, B.A.

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