

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 Women of Lithuania.

BY JULIA ZILEVYCAITE.

The women of Lithuania may be divided into three groups: the peasants, educated women of the people—that is, daughters of peasants—and the nobility.

The first class of women look after their homes, spin and weave flax and wool for their own and their family's clothing. These women are in great need of the help of educated women who could teach them better housekeeping and some ideas of hygiene and pedagogy.

The young girls of the peasant class willingly join societies for the young, in which they can obtain some instruction—such as the society *Pavasaris* (Spring), for Catholic girls and boys, numbering 30,000 members.

Women and young girls have taken a very active part in parliamentary elections these last years. We may say that the success of the Christian Democratic Party, supported by the Society of Catholic Women, was due to women's votes. The Society of Catholic Women of Lithuania numbers over 20,000 members, and has 116 branches. The majority of the members are peasants. The executive committee of the Society is composed of two women members of parliament, two teachers, and two University students.

The other party of Lithuanian women is much less numerous, and is composed of educated women of the peasant class, who before the Russian Revolution studied in the

Russian schools, and since the Proclamation of Independence, 1918, are educated in Lithuania in their mother tongue, or go abroad to Germany, Switzerland, or France.

Lithuania possesses one University only—that of Kaunas, recently established, the older university, which was very famous, is at Vilna—that is beyond the Polish frontier, and therefore not accessible to Lithuanian students.

The women of the nobility are, for the most part, "polonisées"—that is, they consider themselves Polish, or are so; there are, however, a few who count themselves Lithuanians. In general, the women of the nobility take little part in the social life of the country, one reason being that they rarely speak Lithuanian, and another because agrarian reform has caused animosity between the two classes—that is, landed proprietors and workers with no land, or peasants, small landowners, and their descendants.

Whereas women of the nobility live in the country, more often than not the educated women of the people live in the towns, following the profession of teaching, or employed in the ministerial departments, etc. It is these women who have the most influence in the feminist movement.

Since the Constitution of 1918 men and women have equal political rights in Lithuania. The women M.P.'s. have succeeded in placing on the Statute Book equal civil rights

for men and women in the laws concerning marriage, property, and inheritance. Parents have equal rights over their children born in wedlock. Widows are entitled to part of their husband's fortune. No restriction is placed on women either in industry or the professions. Equal pay is given for equal work; and women are not dismissed from employment on marriage, nor has a married woman any difficulty in finding work.

Five women sat in the Assembly which was set up in 1920-22, and four were elected to the Parliament, which has been in power since the autumn of 1922, but one has since withdrawn.

The total number of members of Parliament is 78. Two of the women M.P.'s. are teachers and belong to the Christian Democratic Party, and the third is a Social Democrat, a lawyer by profession.

It is hoped that the more women go in for education the greater will be the number returned to Parliament. Those now in Parliament serve above all on the Commissions of Education and Public Health. They are not as yet strong enough to prove the necessity of the abolition of prostitution; State regulation finds supporters even among doctor M.P.'s. Women doctors, of whom there are a certain number in Lithuania, will not stand for Parliament, either because they prefer their professional career, or because none of the political parties please them.

This was the position of the feminist movement in Lithuania in 1923.

International Notes.

Mundo Feminino reports the interview between Spanish Suffragists and General Primo de Rivera, who showed great interest in the views laid before him, and declared his intention to give Spanish women the vote, with some restrictions. The deputation was led by Señora de Palencia.

We note with pleasure that a Bill has been introduced in Spain to reform municipal government, which among other reforms confers the municipal vote on women, and makes them eligible as candidates. It is reported that the Bill will soon receive the Royal Assent, and that it is hoped that full suffrage will follow before long.

If Spain enfranchises her women, we shall hear no more that the Latin temperament is against woman suffrage; the victory would give impetus to the movement in South America, and new life to all suffragists of Latin races. Good luck to the Bill.

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In Egypt feminists have gained a notable victory. By their efforts they have induced the Government to pass a Bill raising the age of marriage to 16 for girls and 18 for boys. Egypt sent three delegates to the International Woman Suffrage Congress at Rome, and feminism is making good headway among Egyptian women.

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In South Africa the Suffrage Bill has passed its second reading by 54 to 48. General Smuts supported the Bill. The outlook is hopeful.

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A new feminist society, to co-ordinate feminist aspirations, has been formed in Italy under the title: L'Associazione Nazionale Femminile Italiana. The motto of the new society is: God, the family, our country. *Giornale della Donna*.

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The Women's International League is holding a Congress at Washington, May 1-8, for a New International Order. The agenda includes a discussion on the Reconstruction of Europe and the part America can play in it. The call to the Congress says: "Europe needs America; America needs Europe. Europe, America, and all the Continents have need of one another's gifts and of one another's powers."

When the world realises that the new order will have started.

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El Sufragista, Cuba, records with joy that the Partido Nacional Sufragista de Cuba, has been admitted, provisionally, as auxiliary to the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, the admission to be confirmed at the next Congress. Cuban feminists are looking forward to a visit from Mrs. Chapman Catt.

L. DE A.

We offer our congratulations to Mrs. E. C. Mills (*née* E. C. Hughes) on the birth of a son on February 19th.

Notes and Comments.

Social reformers of every creed and every party will be grateful to the *Anti-Slavery Reporter and Aborigines Friend* for publishing the letter received from the Colonial Office by Lord Henry Bentinck, concerning the system of regulated prostitution carried on in Hong Kong. It would appear that the Colonial Office is quite satisfied that all is well, because there are different brothels for Europeans and natives, but some of us are not so easily satisfied. As citizens, we are all responsible for the shameful conditions existing in Hong Kong once these conditions have been brought to our notice. We were glad to note that Lady Astor raised the matter again in the House. We hope that as the matter gets more widely known, there will be such an outcry as will lead to the final abolition of the abominable system throughout the British Empire. Meanwhile, according to notices in the press, a committee appointed to report on venereal disease in Singapore has recommended a rigid system of segregation, and the registration of prostitutes. We shall return to this question later. British women have made up their mind on this point, and are determined that State regulation of vice shall not exist under the British Flag.

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The Editor has received a letter from the President of the International Catholic Women's Leagues, who is aggrieved at the censure passed on her in our columns last month. She asks us to state that the particular charge against the I.W.S.A., to which we were alluding, was due to a misunderstanding and not to any voluntary breach of the principles of charity, justice and truth. None the less, when it is a question of resolutions accessible in print, people who issue condemnations should first read what they are condemning. The President also objects to the fact that the whole of her reply was not printed. Our space is limited, we have already dealt with the matter very fully, and we can see no reason for complying with this request. Meanwhile anyone interested can see the manifesto at 55 Berners Street. It is a lengthy document and covers no new ground.

Poster Parade.

"The parade of devoted women outside the Houses of Parliament to-day, in half a blizzard and in support of votes for women on equal terms with men, inevitably carried the mind back to the dear dead days when no woman could approach within a hundred yards of St. Stephen's without being suspected of having a little hatchet or a few handy missiles, concealed about her person." —We quote from *The Star* of February 29.

This most successful and peaceful parade was organised by St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance on that day, while Mr. Adamson's Equal Franchise Bill was being debated in the House of Commons. Members of the League of the Church Militant, Women's Freedom League, the Guildhouse, and National Union of Women Teachers, also took part in the parade, which lasted from 11 a.m. till 2 p.m. To all these leagues our hearty thanks are due, to Miss Corben, of the League of the Church Militant, for her most cordial co-operation, and to our own ten valiant paraders.

The parade excited great interest and sympathy from the public, the press, and members of parliament. Later several women continued the propaganda by lobbying members inside the House. The Government will do well to take the hint that women are in deadly earnest concerning the fate of this Bill.

Liverpool and District Branch.

Hon. Secretary: Miss N. S. Parnell, B.A., 91 Bedford Street, Liverpool.

A very successful drawing-room meeting was held at 2 Percy Street (by kind permission of Mrs. Finn) on Monday, February 25, which was addressed by Mrs. Field (Organising Secretary to the Voluntary Probation Committee of Liverpool), on the subject of "Probation." A letter was sent to all the local M.P.'s. urging them to vote for the Equal Franchise clauses of Mr. Adamson's Bill on February 29.

Miss Mary Wall represented St. Joan's S.P.A. on the deputation to the Ministry of Pensions, organised by the Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries.

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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Equal Franchise.

The question foremost in our minds at the moment is what is the Government, pledged as it is to equal franchise, going to do about the victory in the House of Commons? Are they going to take over Mr. Adamson's Bill, or are they going to bring in a Bill of their own? The debate and the result of the debate—a majority of 216 in favour of equal franchise—proves quite clearly that there is no real opposition to votes for women on the same terms as men. The seventy-two opponents—led by the Duchess of Atholl—had no arguments against it. The victory was a real one, not one of those pious opinions of the past, that were wont to arouse the anger of women. The old dodge of trying to refer the Bill to a Committee of the whole House failed, defeated by a majority of 170.

The opposition of the Duchess of Atholl reminds one that she was an anti-suffragist in the old far-off days. But we owe her no grudge, for as so often happened in the past, our enemies were our friends. If the last few years have not killed the fear that all women will vote together and defeat the plans of men, the sight of Miss Jewson, teller for the ayes, and the Duchess, teller for the noes, should give the bogey its coup de grâce. And the only opposition existing to equal franchise is born of this craven fear. Women voters have for the most part joined up with the three parties—some have remained independent. There is not the remotest chance

of the foundation of a woman's party. Nor does that apply solely to Great Britain: the question was discussed last May at the International Woman Suffrage Congress at Rome, where representatives of over forty countries assembled, and no support was given to the suggestion that it might be advisable to form a woman's party in the respective countries.

Miss Jewson, who seconded the Bill, said that the principle of equal franchise had been accepted by the House on many occasions by an overwhelming vote. She informed her hearers that it was estimated that 70 per cent. of wage-earning women were under 30 years of age. Mrs. Wintringham said that since 1918 there had been more humane legislation, more consideration for children, women and old people. Lady Astor warmly supported the measure. Mrs. Phillipson voted against.

The *Daily News*, commenting on the Poster Parade, organised by St. Joan's S.P.A., said that the women who paraded were "a picturesque reminder of a recently exciting past. The women's battle is won, and even the women know it."

Yes, it is won, but the Treaty is not signed. Will the Labour Government keep faith with women? And if not willingly, will Labour women *make* them?

L. DE ALBERTI.

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1923.

The year 1923 will be remembered among us as one in which the Society was called upon to make momentous decisions culminating in the change of name. A year if not wholly of gain, yet one of increased vigour and renewed promise.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting was held at the Caxton Hall on Saturday, March 17, with Miss Kathleen FitzGerald, B.A., presiding. The adoption of the Annual Report was moved by Mrs. H. More Nisbett, and seconded by Miss Christine O'Connor. The adoption of the financial statement was moved and seconded by Miss Whateley and Miss Wall.

The following resolutions were put from the Chair and carried unanimously:

1. The C.W.S.S. calls upon the Government to introduce and pass through all its stages, a bill granting the Parliamentary franchise to women on the same terms as to men.
2. *Solicitation Laws.* The C.W.S.S. calls upon the Government to repeal the solicitation laws directed solely against alleged "common prostitutes," under which laws thousands of women are every year convicted, on police evidence only, of soliciting to the annoyance of men, whereas in a recent appeal case, it would appear that in charges of men annoying women, the annoyed person must come forward to give evidence.
3. *Venereal Disease.* The C.W.S.S. protests against any system of compulsory examination of women for venereal disease in any area under the control of the British Government. It further opposes the introduction of compulsory notification and treatment of venereal disease on the ground that it will inevitably tend to the introduction of compulsory examination and detention of women and will have an adverse effect on the present voluntary system of confidential treatment.

4. *Sex Disqualification.* The C.W.S.S. calls upon the Government to amend the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, 1919, so that in practice, it will ensure that "a person, shall not be disqualified by sex or marriage, from the exercise of any public function, or from being appointed to any civil or judicial office or post, or from entering 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."

5. The C.W.S.S. calls upon the Government to adopt and pass through all its stages, the *Guardianship, Custody and Maintenance of Infants' Bill*, 1923, and the

6. *Separation and Maintenance Orders Bill*, 1923.

7. *Widows' Pensions.* The C.W.S.S. calls upon the Government to introduce an adequate system of pensions for widows with dependent children.

The resolution which stood in the name of the York Branch: "That the name of the Society be changed from 'The Catholic Women's Suffrage Society,' to that of 'The Catholic Women's Citizens' Society,' found only three supporters.

Some controversy was aroused by the resolution moved by Miss Havers and seconded by Miss Whateley: "That the last clause of our Constitution 'to further the work and usefulness of Catholic women as citizens,' be so interpreted as to permit of the Society taking part in any movement which in the judgment of the Committee, is likely to promote a permanent World Peace, essential to the free development of womanhood."

Miss Havers explained that the Committee had felt debarred from taking part in peace demonstrations, without a definite mandate from the members; she had therefore put forward the resolution in order that members could give or withhold that mandate. To meet an objection raised that the resolution

could not be carried into effect without infringing the non-party policy of the C.W.S.S. Miss Laughton moved that the words "not of a party nature" should be inserted after the words any movement. Miss Willis moved that the words "not definitely" of a party nature be inserted. Both amendments were lost and the resolution carried with one dissentient.

Miss Eleanor FitzGerald made a very successful appeal for funds.

After an interval for tea, Mrs. More Nisbett gave an eloquent address on the need for women in Parliament.

OTHER MEETINGS.

On February 26, the C.W.S.S. gave a meeting at the Hampstead Subscription Library in support of the Rome Congress, the chair being taken by Miss Kathleen FitzGerald, B.A. The speakers were: Mrs. Abbott, of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance; Mrs. Tata, from India; and Mr. Joseph Clayton.

Mrs. V. M. Crawford spoke at Highgate Convent on February 2, on the "Aims and Objects of the C.W.S.S.," the chairman being the Rev. Fr. Placid, C.P.

In April an informal meeting was held by kind permission of Miss Gorry, at 37 Woburn Square, when Mrs. Finlayson Gould gave an interesting account of the work of the Edinburgh Branch.

On September 10, the Committee gave a dinner at Miss Gorry's to Mrs. Rischbeith, Australia, and Mlle. Odette Simon, avocate à 'la cour d'appel,' Paris, at which these distinguished visitors gave a bird's eye view of conditions in their respective countries.

On November 29, the Alliance held a meeting at the International Franchise Club, at which Mrs. V. M. Crawford spoke on the Guardianship of Infants' Bill.

A small informal dinner was given in December at the Haymarket Club, Spring Gardens, at which Miss Bumpstead, Miss Havers and Miss Wall, gave an account of their experiences during the election campaign. The speeches were extremely interesting, and were much enjoyed by those present.

CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER SOCIETIES.

The C.W.S.S. took part in the Equal Franchise Demonstration on March 7, organised by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship; in July we took part in the No More War Procession and Demonstration in Hyde Park. We also sent representatives to the Conference convened by the National Council of Women to consider what is known as the Sokal proposal, touching the employment of foreign women in licensed houses; and to the Conference convened by the N.U.S.E.C. on Married Women's Income Tax, and on Widows' Pensions. Mrs. H. More Nisbett represented the Society at the National Council of Women's Conference in Edinburgh, and moved a resolution in our name in favour of the Guardianship of Infants' Bill. We were also represented at the dinner given by the Women's Freedom League to Mrs. Ralph Smith, Cabinet Minister, British Columbia, and Mrs. Phillipson, M.P.

The Alliance again owes a debt of gratitude to Lady Astor for her repeated hospitality throughout the year. At her house, our representatives had the opportunity, which was much appreciated, of meeting Members of Parliament and delegates of many Women's Societies.

St. Joan's S.P.A. has a representative on the Committee of the Catholic Citizens' Parliament, and co-operates in the work of this body, which has recently celebrated its first anniversary.

LETTERS AND RESOLUTIONS.

Letters and resolutions have been sent to the Government and Catholic M.P.'s. in support of Lady Astor's Bill to forbid the sale of intoxicating liquor to persons under 18, for consumption on licensed premises; in support of the Performing Animals' (Regulation) Bill; in protest against the proposed new Trade Boards' Bill.

Letters have been addressed to the Secretariat of the League of Nations, protesting against the decision of the Council of the League not to accept non-official communications (this decision of the Council has been

recently modified); protesting against the proposal of the Cuban delegate that young girls travelling alone should carry certificates of previous good behaviour, and protesting against the Sokal proposal.

Councillor Mrs. V. M. Crawford gave evidence on our behalf in support of the Guardianship of Infants' Bill before the Select Committee of both Houses of Parliament, from the point of view of women under the Poor Law.

GENERAL ELECTION.

Holy Mass was offered by Dom Gilbert Higgins, C.R.L., our associate, at our request, on polling day to beg Divine guidance on the men and women electors.

The Committee drew up a questionnaire, which was sent to all the women candidates and Catholic candidates.

The Alliance was anxious to give what help it could to all the women candidates who had sent a favourable reply to the questions addressed to them. We were able to send workers to Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Dr. Ethel Bentham, Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, Mrs. Oliver Strachey, and Dame Helen Gwynne Vaughan. In addition one helper was sent for a week to a candidate of each party: Lady Astor, Mrs. Wintringham, and Miss Margaret Bondfield—the respective workers being Miss Bumpstead, Miss Wall, and Miss Havers. The Alliance received very appreciative letters of thanks from these candidates, and wishes to convey its congratulations to the eight women members. With eight women in Parliament, the Alliance feels that a great step forward has been taken. We do not forget that there were 33 women candidates, and to the 25 we owe a deep debt of gratitude for their plucky fight.

Letters were sent to the Leaders of the three Parties asking them to place on their programme:

1. The removal of all legal inequalities between men and women, particularly as regards the franchise.
2. Pensions for Widows with dependent children.
3. Unemployment. To undertake that any sum of public money for the benefit of

the unemployed be divided equally between men and women in proportion to their numbers.

Mr. Baldwin was also asked to receive a deputation on these matters.

The replies from Mr. Baldwin and Mr. Henderson were published in the *Catholic Citizen* in December.

FOREIGN VISITORS.

In February, Mrs. V. M. Crawford gave an "At Home" at 69 Clarence Gate Gardens, to give friends an opportunity of meeting three distinguished Japanese visitors to London.

Other foreign visitors whom we have had the pleasure of meeting at our Office are: Princess Almedingen (Russia), Signorina Bertola (Turin), Mme. E. Kuyper (Holland), Señorita Lazaño (Valencia), Mme. Malaterre Sellier, President of the Paris Union pour le Suffrage des Femmes, Miss Roner (Poland), Mrs. John Scott (Montreal), Miss Sugrue (New Zealand). Major Keane, Chief Medical Officer for Venereal Diseases (Uganda), also came to the Office during the year to see the Hon. Secretary.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESSES.

The Society was represented at the Action Sociale, Paris, by Miss Kathleen FitzGerald, B.A.; by Miss Fortey, at the Semaine Sociale, Grenoble; by Miss S. Grieson at the International Catholic Congress at Constance.

DEPUTATION TO HOME OFFICE.

The Society was represented by Miss Barry on the Deputation to the Home Secretary on the Sex Disqualification Removal Act, organised by the Six Point Group.

The Alliance is affiliated to the Consultative Committee of Women's Organisations, the International Women's 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 Society serve on the Headquarters Committee of the Inter-

national Woman's Suffrage Alliance, the British Overseas Committee, the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations, the British Rome Congress Committee; the following sectional committees of the National Council of Women: Industrial, Parliamentary and Legislation, Rescue and Preventative.

CATHOLIC CITIZEN.

We have again to thank many professional writers who have given their services during the past year, thus enabling us to keep up the standard of the *Catholic Citizen*. The paper advertises the work of the Society, both in this and in foreign countries. It could be more useful still if the sales could be increased and the paper become self-supporting.

To help the funds of the *Catholic Citizen* the Society had a stall at the Garden Fête organised by the Six Point Group, which was given in the Gardens of Lord Leverhulme's house at Hampstead.

GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD FAIR.

Again this year we had a stall at the Green, White and Gold Fair, organised by the Women's Freedom League.

OBITUARY.

We record with great regret the death of our members and associates, Mrs. Welch, Rev. Mgr. Canon Stuart (Edinburgh), Rev. Fr. Price, O.S.M. The Society has also lost two very good friends in Mgr. Canon Giesswein, of Hungary, and Mr. Beazley, Editor of the *Catholic Times*.

Among well-known Suffragists who were not of our faith we deeply regret to record the death of Lady Constance Lytton, Mrs. Hertha Ayrton, Dr. Flora Murray, and Miss A. E. Metcalfe. Representatives of the Alliance were present at the funeral of Lady Constance Lytton.—R.I.P.

We offer our cordial thanks to Dr. Isabel Collier, Miss Havers, Miss Wall and Miss McManus, for help given in the Office; and to our paper-sellers, who go on valiantly year after year; Miss F. N. Atkinson, Miss R. Atkinson, Miss Fedden, Miss Gorry, Mrs. Scott Hill and Mrs. O'Donnell.

The Committee wish to express their deep debt of gratitude to Miss Pauline M. Brandt, who gave her services daily at the Office as a voluntary worker during the entire year. When a vacancy occurred on the Committee Miss Brandt was co-opted, and we feel that in this way her valuable assistance will be given still to the Alliance, in spite of her not being able to continue her work at the Office.

We regret to record the resignation from Committee of Mrs. Clayton and of Miss Christine O'Connor, owing to pressure of work and inability to attend the Committee meetings.

The Alliance has held speakers' classes, under the direction of Miss Grace Bumpstead, during the last three months. The classes have been well attended, particularly by some of our junior members.

HON. PRESS SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The Press Secretary was able during the past year to call attention to several subjects of great importance to women, by means of articles, the following being a list of those which appeared in the *Catholic Times*:

Family Endowments; Married Women's Nationality, a Muddle; The International W.S. Conference in Rome; Married Women Teachers; Trade Boards; Women Police; and Guardianship of Infants' Bill.

In the case of several of these articles, correspondence followed in *Catholic Times* and *Universe*, letters from the Press Secretary appearing on the question of Married Women Teachers and others, including one on Trade Boards with special reference to the Catering Trades.

Miss de Alberti, who attended the Rome Congress for the I.W.S.A., was able to report the Congress for the *Catholic Times* and *Universe*. The article which appeared in the *Catholic Citizen* in October, in defence of the programme of the I.W.S.A. adopted at Rome, has been published in German, French and Spanish Feminist papers. It was also published in French and English in *The International Woman Suffrage News*. An article on the aims and objects of the C.W.S.S., by Miss de Alberti, was published in the Swiss Suffrage paper, *Schweizer Frauenblatt*.

LIVERPOOL BRANCH.

The Branch can report very little progress during the year. Our membership has remained stationary, and of the six meetings originally planned, it was only possible to hold one. The idea of reconstructing the library and of holding some kind of social event, had also to be abandoned by the committee.

An extraordinary general meeting was held on June 14 to discuss the future policy of the Society, and it was unanimously agreed that our branch should vote in favour of the change of name of the Society at the forthcoming general meeting in London.

The Branch co-operated in the Liverpool "No More War" demonstration in July.

The committee met three times, and had a fairly good attendance at each meeting.

We much regret to have to record the death of our late chairman, Miss E. M. O'Callaghan, who was one of the original members of the Branch, and we offer our sincerest sympathy to her mother and sister. We ask all our members to remember her in their prayers.—R.I.P.

At the end of the year Mrs. Thomas was obliged to resign the post of Hon. Secretary, owing to her frequent absence from home, but we are glad that she is able to remain on the committee, and we take this opportunity of thanking her for her work during the year. Miss N. S. Parnell, B.A., has kindly undertaken to act as hon. secretary.

Our thanks are also due to Mrs. Parnell for her valiant work as paper secretary, and also for her kindness in allowing us the use of her room for our committee meetings.

CHANGE OF NAME.

The C.W.S.S. had intended sending delegates to the International Woman Suffrage Conference in Rome, but early in the year the Committee received official information from Rome that in accordance with a ruling of the Holy See, no Society calling itself Catholic may take part in, or be officially represented at, any meeting of a non-confessional, Protestant, or neutral nature, and referring to the announcements in the press that the Society would be represented at the Rome Congress. The Committee immediately petitioned the Holy Father, explaining the position and

policy of the Society towards the International Woman's Suffrage Alliance. His Eminence Cardinal Bourne kindly forwarded the letter for the Society to Rome. The reply from Rome was to the effect that His Holiness adhered to his decision. Therefore the Society was not officially represented at the Congress.

The Committee seeing that the Society would be precluded from international co-operation, convened a general meeting at Caxton Hall, Westminster, on June 23, at which the following resolution was carried, after full discussion, with only eight dissentients.

WHEREAS, owing to the difficulties of international co-operation occasioned by the ruling of the Holy See, that "No Society, calling itself *Catholic*, may take part in, or be officially represented at, any meeting of a Non-confessional, Protestant, or neutral nature," without the consent of the Ordinary, this meeting of the C.W.S.S. resolves that the name of the Society be changed.

On October 20 another general meeting was held, at which it was resolved that the Society should be known in future as "St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance." Dom Gilbert Higgins, C.R.L., speaking in favour of this title, wished the Society every possible success under whatever name it was known by.

At a meeting of the "Under Thirty" section of St. Joan's S.P.A. Miss Fedden gave a most vivid and interesting account of how she became a Suffragist, and of the formation of our society and of its splendid work in the strenuous years before the partial enfranchisement of women was won. Miss Atkinson, who occupied the chair, thanked Miss Fedden for her inspiring words, and urged the "Under Thirties" to work with equal enthusiasm for their own enfranchisement.

We call the attention of our readers to the Guildhouse Fellowship All Day Conference on "Housing," to be held at the Guildhouse, Eccleston Square (Victoria Station, 4 minutes' walk), on Saturday, April 5th. Three Sessions. Chair: Miss Maude Royden. Apply—Miss Helen Ward, Guildhouse, Eccleston Square. Men and women welcome.

Women Police.

Inspector Mrs. Hamilton More Nisbett, Scottish Propaganda Officer for the Women's Auxiliary Service, gave a most interesting address on "Why we want Women Police," at a meeting of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance held at St. Anne's Settlement Hall, Vauxhall, on March 3rd, the Rt. Rev. Mgr. Provost Brown, V.G., Bishop-elect of Pella, presiding.

On behalf of the Alliance, Mrs. More Nisbett warmly congratulated Mgr. Brown on his forthcoming elevation to the episcopate and reminded her audience that he had been an associate of the C.W.S.S. in the day when "votes for women" was an unpopular cry.

The speaker then explained the great need for women police in dealing with women offenders, both in the courts and in the cells before trial. Many assault cases never came into court, as women constantly refused to give evidence to a man. They are also needed to travel with women offenders when they have to be taken long distances; for investigation of cases of concealment of birth and illegal operations, and most especially in cases of child assault. All these functions are essentially women's work and are exceedingly distasteful to the best type of policeman. A great deal of valuable social work can be done by a policewoman of personality and tact, but it is essential that this type of woman should be chosen, and that she should be sworn in and have equal status with the policeman.

Mgr. Brown said that he considered the present moment an excellent time for pressing for this reform, and that he was of the opinion that the Home Office would look favourably upon the question. He urged the importance of educating the public on this matter and of interesting working women, so that they would realise all they can do with their votes. From his own experience, he could say that there was an awakening to the power of the vote among the working women.

Miss Kathleen Wright, who is a Probation Officer in South London, in seconding the resolution, also stressed the importance of having women present in court, and of the selection of the right kind of woman who is sincerely anxious to help her fellow women.

The following resolution was carried unanimously:

"That this meeting, being convinced that the time is ripe for the inclusion of Women Police in every Police Force in the country, urges the Home Secretary to recommend Chief Constables to include carefully chosen and highly trained Policewomen as an integral part of their police."

Equal Franchise.

10 Downing Street,
Whitehall, S.W. 1,
1st March, 1924.

Dear Madam,

I am desired by the Prime Minister to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th ult., in which you ask him to receive a deputation on the subject of Equal Franchise for Men and Women.

In reply, the Prime Minister wishes me to say that the Government is in sympathy with the cause which you have at heart, as was explained by Mr. Clynes in the speech which he delivered in the House of Commons yesterday. In these circumstances the Prime Minister feels that a deputation on the subject would hardly serve any useful purpose at the present stage, and, in view of the overwhelming pressure of work with which he is faced at the present time, he regrets that he cannot see his way to accede to your request.

Yours truly,

(Signed), PATRICK GOWER.

Miss Barry,

(St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance.)

The White List.

At the Hyde Park Hotel on Tuesday, February 19th, the Six Point Group entertained to Luncheon the eighteen members of Parliament who are on the White List.

Lady Rhondda proposed the health of the guests, and said that the Group had learnt to put its trust neither in pledges nor parties but in the members of Parliament who had worked for measures giving protection to children, and equality to men and women.

Colonel Wedgwood, replying, said that

women had proved themselves to be practical politicians. He had been struck by the fact that now women attend election meetings, candidates find that sound information is expected from them instead of mere jokes and ridicule of their opponents.

Major Birchall said that already politics owe to women the increased interest in elections, and the maintenance of idealism.

Mr. Frank Briant and Captain Wedgwood Benn also spoke for the White M.P.'s and Miss Elizabeth Robins for the Six Point Group.

Extracts from Draft Report on Nationality of Married Women.

Norway, Sweden, and Denmark.

Anna Wicksell (Sweden) writes that the Governments of Norway, Sweden, and Denmark have agreed to introduce in their respective Parliaments this year royal propositions on the same lines. These will probably not go further than to permit a married woman to retain her nationality so long as she remains in her own country, but a foreign woman who marries a Swede will continue to be Swedish. Mrs. Wicksell is seeking to have incorporated in the Bill the proposal that a foreign woman who does not lose her nationality on marrying a Swede shall not acquire Swedish nationality. In the meantime the Dansk Kvindesamfund (our Danish Auxiliary) has presented a petition to their Government and is making an interpellation on the question at the elections next year. The Swedish Government has said to Mrs. Wicksell that when a number of Governments have introduced the question, and the difficulties become apparent, the matter might be introduced either through the League of Nations, or otherwise, before an international forum on a special case.

Germany.

No further progress has been made in Germany, the Government having taken the view that the question can only be decided by international agreement. The Women Lawyers' Association has been interested in the question.

British Empire.

The draft International Convention of the Alliance was brought before the Special Committee dealing with the Nationality of Married

Women of the Imperial Conference at which Newfoundland, New Zealand, Canada, Australia, South Africa, and India were represented. This Committee of the Conference passed the following resolution:

"The Committee are of opinion that the principle of the existing law that the nationality of a married woman depends on that of her husband should be maintained. They, nevertheless, recommend that power should be taken to readmit a woman to British nationality in cases where the married state, though subsisting in law, has for all practical purposes come to an end."

It is important to note that the representatives of the different Governments who did vote on this Committee do not appear to have taken the opinion of their respective Parliaments on this important question of policy. It is, therefore, urgent, to prevent similar irresponsible voting in future, that the women in the Dominions and in Britain should ensure that the respective Parliaments pronounce by resolution, or otherwise, in favour of the married woman's right to her nationality.

The International Law Association.

A special meeting of this Association was held in London on October 4, 1923, on the subject of "Nationality and Naturalisation," at which a paper was read by Dr. E. J. Schuster, K.C., LL.D., on the "Effect of Marriage on Nationality." The writer strongly supported the independent right of the married woman to her nationality. As chairman of this Committee, I had been invited to attend, and was given an opportunity of putting the draft International Convention before the meeting. The Convention was referred to the Special Committee on Nationality of the Association, and is being printed in their transactions, so that it will be available in legal libraries in most countries. The question is again to come up for discussion at the next Ordinary Meeting of the Association, in Stockholm, in September, 1924. Miss Rosa Manus also attended the above meeting as representing the Alliance.

CHRISTAL MACMILLAN,

Chairman of Committee.

International Woman Suffrage News.

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A Meeting

at which

R. Mitchell Banks, Esq., K.C., M.P.

**The Hon. E. A. St. Aubyn Harney,
K.C. M.P.**

F. W. Sherwood, Esq.

(Recorder of Worcester),

will speak on the

Legitimacy Bill, 1924,

will be held (by kind permission of Miss Tuke and the Council of the College) at

Bedford College, Regents Pk.

(main entrance, 5 minutes from Baker Street Station) on

Saturday, March 15th, at 4-30 p.m.

MISS KATHLEEN FITZGERALD, B.A.,
in the chair.

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