

THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

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

VOL. VII., No. 11.

November 15th, 1921.

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 ATTACK ON TRADE BOARDS.

BY MARGRIETA BEER, M.A.

During the last few months a violent attack has been made upon Trade Boards, which has brought them more public attention than they have attracted during the whole twelve years of their previous existence. Throughout these years they have functioned quietly and peaceably in the trades for which they were set up, with remarkable success in raising the wages and improving the status of poorly-paid workers, and with equally remarkable success in maintaining industrial peace.

This they have achieved by bringing together the representatives of employers and their workers in the trades concerned, in such a way that recognition and understanding of the difficulties that beset the path of both sides, and consequent mutual consideration have almost invariably followed.

It is this periodical meeting of each other face to face, and the frank discussion across the table of the problems of the trade, that has proved in practice so invaluable in solving difficulties, and in arriving at agreement in such a way as to avoid industrial strife. In all the trades covered by Trade Boards, of which there are now more than 60, only two unimportant and sectional strikes have taken place during the last twelve years. No more impressive testimony than this could possibly be brought to the service they have rendered to these industries and to the community at large.

The press campaign against the Boards has revealed an extraordinary ignorance of their constitution and working. It seems to be a general impression that they are composed mainly of government officials, who impose their arbitrary decisions upon a protesting but helpless industry. Each Board is

in fact composed almost entirely of representatives of the trade concerned. Employers and workers must be represented in equal numbers, and each side has the right to nominate its own representatives. Associations of employers and organisations of workers are invariably consulted, and invited to frequent conference at the Ministry of Labour before the Board is finally set up. The greatest care is taken to ensure that every interest in the trade, and every district in which the industry is carried on, shall be adequately represented. The size of a Board varies according to the size of the trade, the variety and extent of its interests, and the degree to which both town and country districts are concerned in carrying on the industry. In addition to the representative members, three persons are appointed by the Minister of Labour as independent and neutral persons, unconnected with the trade. These are never government officials, but are chosen for their special economic, industrial or legal knowledge. On two or three Boards five independent members are appointed for special reasons, but this is exceptional. One of these "appointed members" acts as Chairman, and in any industry where a large number of women is employed one must be a woman.

One function of these independent members is to make it possible ultimately to arrive at a decision when any question comes to the vote. For if the two sides vote solid, the three "appointed members," even if divided in opinion, can always weigh the balance on one side or the other. But one of their main uses comes into play before any question is put to the vote. For their aim and ideal is always to arrive at a decision by agreement between the two sides. To bring about this happy

result the most careful thought and care is taken to bring out facts and arguments, by discussion and by private conference with each side separately, and to explore every aspect of the case in order to bring the two sides closer together in their difference of opinion, until at last they are separated by so little as to make it possible easily to achieve agreement, or, at any rate, even if a vote prove inevitable, to make it a comparatively small matter on which the neutral members have to decide. The "appointed members" are therefore conciliators first and foremost.

It has been my happy experience to take part frequently in such discussions and conferences, and to see employers and workers, widely separated on some matter in dispute, come finally, after frank and often lengthy discussion, to an amicable agreement, which is carried into effect in the industry throughout the whole of the country in the most loyal and honourable way.

It is this personal relationship in Trade Boards, which has proved in experience to be of inestimable value, and which would be lacking if the alternative of fixing a national minimum wage were substituted for them. This substitution is very widely advocated to-day, mainly on grounds of economy and simplicity. But I am convinced that in the long run such hope would prove deceptive and illusory. By far the most expensive method of settling industrial disputes is by strikes, and the machinery which the Trade Boards provide, which has been so extraordinarily successful in preventing strikes, would be swept away by the ostensibly more economical method of fixing a national minimum wage.

Moreover, under the amended Trade Boards Act of 1918, the Boards were given enlarged powers, and it is not only with questions of wages that the Boards deal now. To those who are interested in the future of industry in this country, the whole question of the training of the young worker is one of the most serious and far-reaching with which the Boards concern themselves. To this problem they have given considerable attention, and schemes of learnership and apprenticeship have been drawn up and put into effect, which must have the most beneficial effects on the future of the industries concerned. In some cases apprenticeship, which was formerly the rule in the trade, but which had been allowed to lapse, has been revived, with modern modi-

fications, to the satisfaction of both employers and workers. Such schemes, or a system of learnership which does not bind by indenture, have come into operation for both girls and boys in many industries under the Trade Boards.

It is clear that such activities as these can only be effective when the special circumstances and requirements of each trade are taken into consideration. This can obviously only be done by those who have an intimate knowledge of the industry or who are engaged in the trade itself. The machinery for fixing a national minimum wage would of necessity leave all such problems untouched.

It is obvious to all students of our economic system in the world of to-day, that the future of industry will be bound up with a far larger measure of control by the workers than has obtained hitherto. It is of vital importance to the stable development of industry, and to the well-being of the community as a whole, that such control should proceed along wise and statesmanlike lines. The Trade Boards are by far the most important step in this direction that has as yet been taken. They are true organs of industrial self-government, employers and workers being associated together, with equal voting power, in deciding questions that concern labour and the industry generally. Each trade has in its Trade Board its own parliament, with legislative powers. Its decisions take effect as the law of the land. It is along such lines as these, which have already yielded such promising results, that we must look for the maintenance of industrial peace, and for the industrial emancipation of the workers.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

Hon. Sec., Miss A. J. Musson, Fair View West, Rainhill.

A well-attended meeting of the Branch was held on 12th October, at 6, Lord Street, Liverpool. Dr. Isabel Collier presided. Mrs. More Nisbett, of the Women's Auxiliary Service, Edinburgh, gave an inspiring address, on "Women Jurors." In the course of her remarks Inspector More Nisbett said she thought that women should be in court during the hearing of all cases concerning women and children, and that although women were now eligible for Jury Service it often happened that they were turned out of court during the hearing of such cases. It was most essential that cases like these should be tried in the presence of Women Jurors and that the women should not be compelled to withdraw from adjudicating on a case concerning women and children. Women should, however disagreeable it may be, look upon Jury Service as a Christian duty. Mrs. Smiley, M.A., proposed,

(Continued on page 89).

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

We print in another column a letter we have received from the German Catholic Women's League, which, with the pamphlet they send, makes sad reading. The C.W.S.S. is considering what steps it may be useful to take. The attitude of our Society on this matter is well known, we oppose without compromise state regulation of vice, wherever it is to be found, in peace or in war; whether for the alleged benefit of soldiers or civilians, of whatever nationality. We look to the time when a government, which makes itself a purveyor of women will be considered to be outside the pale of civilization. A step in that direction was taken at Geneva the other day, when sixteen nations signed the Convention against the Traffic in Women and Children. We are proud of the part played by Mr. Balfour, the Senior British representative at the League of Nations Assembly, who carried the day, in spite of the opposition of France. It is hoped that many more nations will sign the Convention, when their delegates return.

* * * *

On the re-assembling of Parliament Mrs. Wintringham, M.P., took her seat in the House of Commons. Her sponsors were Mr. Asquith and Sir Donald Maclean. She received a hearty welcome from all quarters of the House. It must have been a strange day for Mr. Asquith, but we do not doubt that he enjoyed it. We hope that our two women M.P.'s will be joined soon by many others.

* * * *

On October 21st Cambridge rejected the proposal to admit women to limited membership of the University by a majority of 214. The proposal to confer titular degrees on women by diploma was accepted by a majority of 642. On reading of the proceedings at Cambridge, one can only say, Thank God for Oxford! And yet we know that Cambridge must, for its own honour, reverse the decision it has taken. It cannot afford to write itself down a back number. Meanwhile the women are contemplating an appeal to the Royal Universities Commission now sitting. Cambridge has refused to reform itself, it may find that it is compelled to do so.

* * * *

The University of London is organizing a series of lectures, open to both men and

women, on the Summa Theologica of St. Thomas Aquinas, in connection with the University Extension Lectures. The course will be given by Father Vincent McNabb, O.P., at the Westminster Cathedral Hut, on every Thursday, at 7.30, beginning on November 3rd. Students who have attended $\frac{3}{4}$ of the lectures may qualify for a certificate. Commenting on these Lectures, *Blackfriars* says that one supreme advantage of them will be that women as well as men will be able to follow a systematic course of Theology—a branch of study hitherto confined in this country to ecclesiastical colleges and monastic houses. The Editor goes on to express a hope that these Lectures may develop into an organization of studies for Catholic women such as flourishes at the Catholic University of Fribourg. There courses of lectures, of the most varied nature, are being given "with the object of preparing women to fulfil a useful and beneficent purpose in society." They are intended to train women in the organisation and practice of works of charity, as catechists in parishes, as secretaries of social organisations, directors and heads of employment bureaux, crèches, hostels and dispensaries, welfare workers in factories and on children's tribunals, &c. Other courses of lectures for women deal with apologetics, moral theology, the Scriptures, the liturgy, church institutions, church history, philosophy and pedagogics

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Mrs. MacFadyen represented the C.W.S.S. on the deputation of Women's Organisations, which waited on the two candidates at the Hornsey by-election.

(Continued from page 88).

and Mrs. L. Hughes seconded, a vote of thanks, which was carried with much enthusiasm, to Inspector More Nisbett. Several new members were enrolled at the close of the meeting.

CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL PURITY.

Conference on Social Purity, Nov. 15th-17th, Royal Institution, Colquett Street, Liverpool. Tickets for this Conference 2/6; single meetings 1/-. The C.W.S.S. is represented on Joint Committee of the Conference. Councillor Mrs. V. M. Crawford, representing C.W.S.S., will speak on 15th, at 7.30 session, on "The Changing Moral Standard and its Challenge to Christianity." Tickets can be obtained from Conference Secretary, 15, Princes Avenue, Liverpool. Mrs. E. M. MacDonald has been re-elected to the Liverpool Select Vestry. She resigned from that body last year when she accompanied her brother, Father J. Walsh, to America.

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.

AND
Editorial Office of "Catholic Citizen":

55, BERNERS STREET, LONDON, W., 1. Tel. Museum 4181.

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

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A BILL OF DIVORCEMENT.

By general agreement Miss Clemence Dane has written a successful drama in the play which has been running for some months at St. Martin's Theatre. Nor do I wish to add a discordant note. It is a fine play and finely acted. It is not as a drama that I wish to discuss it, but solely in its relation to the problems of divorce. The audience is asked to imagine that the recommendations of the Majority Report of the Royal Commission on Divorce have become the law of the land, and it is said by many that Miss Dane considers that the play works out in favour of the new divorce law. On reading the play when first published, my impression was that it was the best argument against the proposed law that I had read for a long time; on seeing the play that impression was deepened. The plot by now is well known. The husband, who has been in an asylum sixteen years following shell shock, comes home cured, unexpectedly, to find that his wife has divorced him, and is about to marry again. Miss Dane has weighted the scales heavily against Christians who believe in the indissolubility of marriage. We have the spinster aunt, who has transformed a religion of Divine Love into a stultifying embittering creed, which has made her a kill-joy, with no understanding of the difficulties which bestrew the path of man, with no sympathy for human frailty. There is the flrid portly Vicar, sleek and placid, whose Christianity has certainly not robbed him of the pleasures of life. These two worthies represent in this play the Christian opposition to divorce. Their every allusion to a religious

service brings an inevitable titter. The brave young girl, who does not hesitate to stifle her own love and renounce all her idea of marriage for fear of transmitting insanity to her children, is not a churchgoer, with such a brand of religion as she has been used to, that is scarcely surprising.

The scales then are heavily weighted against the opposers of divorce; but what happens? When the wife goes off with the man she is to marry, leaving her young daughter to take up the burden she herself will have none of, I do not believe there can be one person in the audience, whatever their creed, or lack of creed, whose whole being does not rise in revolt at the pitiful spectacle. If it were customary for a select audience to express their feelings in speech, I feel sure that the word "coward" would resound from every part of the house. For the play grips one, as a fine drama, we'll acted, must; we feel that the young girl will yet find peace and even joy in comforting her broken father, whereas an unerring instinct tells us that the woman who forsakes her daughter and her stricken husband will find that the fruit she seizes regardless of all but her love, will crumble at her touch. We know that she will never succeed in shutting out the memory of the man she has forsaken, or of the girl upon whom she has shunted her burden. There may be a lesson to learn from Miss Dane's play, but it is not the one that we are told was set for us. Indeed, the play might have been written by a subtle opponent of divorce.

L. DE ALBERTI.

Correspondence.

FROM THE GERMAN CATHOLIC
WOMEN'S LEAGUE.

"The Catholic Women's Suffrage Society."

Madam,—We take the liberty of sending you a pamphlet by the League of Rhenish Women (to which we adhere) on the results of the French coloured troops on the left bank of the Rhine. After having read these gloomy pages you will understand how we are oppressed by the thought that such crimes against female honour and Christian Law can be possible in our country.

Of late there were news in some papers that the coloured troops have been withdrawn from Germany. These news are wrong.

In April, 1921, there were garrisoned in the Rhineland and in the Palatinate: 9—10 regiments from Algeria, 2 regiments from Tunisia, 3 regiments from Morocco, 1 regiment of Malagasse (who are black). Negroes also are present. German towns are condemned to erect brothels on behalf of these troops, a great number of whom are half savages.

The pamphlet we beg to send you contains documents duly testified, but it must be observed that many cases remain unknown, as it is very comprehensible that a great number of women refuse by shame to render public the attempts committed against themselves.

We have no power to defend ourselves against this scourge, which represents a stain on European civilisation. The only means left to us is the way of protest, and we hope and trust that this our protest will be supported by the Catholic women of England.

With our best regards,

Truly yours,

P. COUNTESS MONTGELAS.

In Support of Trade Boards

A successful meeting was organised by the C.W.S.S. at the Minerva Cafe, Oxford Street, on October 26th, to protest against any attempt to destroy Trade Boards, much threatened at the moment in the wide-spread effort to drive down wages. Councillor Mrs. Crawford took the chair and many prominent members of the Society were present. The principal speaker was Mrs. Burton, the official organiser for Holborn of the women's section of the National Union of General Workers,

whose earnestness and sincerity made a deep impression on her audience. She spoke of the successful development of Trade Boards ever since, mainly thanks to Mary McArthur, they were first started in the interests of the women chainmakers of Cradley Heath, then earning the magnificent wage of 4s. a week. As to their beneficent effect on her own trade—tailoring—Mrs. Burton gave some striking statistics. She urged that a Trade Board was badly needed in the catering trade where so many girl-workers only have tips to depend on. Taken as a whole she maintained that the Boards had proved a godsend to women-workers who would view their abolition with dismay.

Miss A. L. Petty seconded the resolution. The resolution was unanimously adopted, and ran as follows:

"That this meeting of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society views with apprehension the growing opposition to Trade Boards among certain sections of the public, as it is convinced that Trade Boards afford the only means of protection for the lowest paid workers, and have already proved their value to the Community.

"It calls upon the Minister of Labour to safeguard the position of those Boards already in existence, and to extend the Trades Boards Act without further delay to those numerous trades in which there is no adequate protection against sweating."

St. Joan's Fair.

The completed list of Societies taking stalls now reads as follows:—Guild of Our Lady of Ransom, Catholic Truth Society, Catholic Women's Missionary Society, Catholic Medical Mission in India, Catholic Missionary Society, Children of Mary, Catholic Reading Guild, Besford Court Home, Catholic Women's League, Crusade of Rescue, Catholic Social Guild, Convent of the Good Shepherd, Society of Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Andrew's Hospital (Dollis Hill), Guardian Angels' Home Penryn Retreat House (Birmingham), Convent of the Sacred Heart (Swaffham).

Mrs. Clayton is very kindly undertaking the Refreshments, and Mrs. Gillies-Campbell, Miss Laughton, Miss Fedden, the Hon. Miss MacDonnell, and Miss Whately are helping with the stalls, and Miss Wall is also giving special service.

International Notes.

Jus Suffragii (October) prints a full programme of the International Conference of the Abolitionist Federation, to be opened in Rome early in November. The C.W.S.S. is particularly glad to be represented by a delegate (Mrs. M. F. B. Neill) at this important gathering. It will be remembered that we published recently the letter in which His Holiness conveyed the Apostolic blessing to the Abolitionist Federation, and it is to be hoped that this may result in much greater activity among Italian Catholic women in the cause of public morality. There is acute need for their co-operation.

* * * *

Suffragists will find in *Jus* a very instructive account of the wrecking of the Women's Franchise Bill that has been before the Newfoundland House of Commons this year, after the Prime Minister's most definite assurances of his effective support. The women have been sold again.

The first woman M.P. in Sweden is Miss Kerstin Hesselgren, a trade inspector, who was elected for Gothenburg at the general election in September. This was the first occasion on which women enjoyed the suffrage and we are told they voted in large numbers.

Mlle. Keignaerts is the first woman in Belgium to be appointed Burgomaster; she rules over the little village of Gheluveld, near Ypres, which was totally destroyed during the war and to the re-construction of which Mlle. Keignaerts is devoting her life.

* * * *

La Française publishes a full account of the "Crusade of Spanish Women," which has been largely organised by a Spanish novelist, Mme. Carmen de Burgos, to work for the suffrage and other much-needed reforms. Unfortunately these Spanish women have also included a demand for divorce in their programme and will thus alienate the sympathies of all Catholic women from their propaganda.

* * * *

Delegates of the Christian Working Women's Leagues of Belgium, to the number of 1,500, held a very successful congress at Brussels early in September. (*La Femme Belge*.) These delegates represented some 40,000 women in various Leagues and 30,000 in industrial syndicates. The papers and dis-

cussions covered a very wide ground and many reforms were asked for, but we note with regret that no one seems to have suggested that an extension of the political franchise to women on the same terms as men would greatly facilitate their task.

* * * *

A Catholic woman doctor, Dr. Mary Hannan, contributes an admirable article on the Prevention of Venereal Disease to the *Woman's Outlook* (South Africa). We learn from the same source that an organised effort is now being made to interest the Dutch women of the Free State and the Transvaal in woman's suffrage; hitherto there has been no sort of response to propaganda in those regions.

* * * *

The *Bollettino* of the Italian Catholic Women's Union describes with pardonable pride the splendid demonstration organised by the Union, on September 6th, before Dante's tomb, at Ravenna, as part of the great commemoration of the seventh centenary of his death. A huge procession of women with banners defiled through the ancient town and the crowd was so vast that the theatre engaged for the speeches proved quite inadequate and the venerable Church of Sant' Appollinare was put at the disposal of the women, and it was there, with the Marchesa Patrizi presiding, that Countess Elena da Persico delivered an eloquent address on Dante and Women.

* * * *

The Canton of Geneva has just rejected the proposal to grant the vote to women by 14,166 votes to 6,629, and it is regrettable to know that the Catholic influence appears to have been thrown wholly against the reform. The *Courier de Genève*, the chief Catholic daily paper of the town, came out on the eve of the poll with a most violent "anti" article, a re-hash of all the old exploded arguments, imploring its readers to meet the question with "un gros NON!" Even the excellent little working women's organ, *Le Travail Féminin*, did not get beyond an elaborately non-committal article, the point of which seemed to be that though women's suffrage was bound to come and might be a blessing when it did, no one was to raise a finger to help it along! Clearly Catholic suffragists still have their work cut out for them.

V.M.C.

St. Joan's Fair.

We are pleased to be able to record again this month a list of those who have so kindly contributed towards the "St. Joan's Fair." The response has been most gratifying, and we desire to thank very sincerely all who have helped, hoping at the same time that many more may be induced by this good example to do likewise. The contributions we have received include besides those mentioned below promises of gifts from Messrs. Burns, Oates and Washbourne, Ltd., Messrs. Ronuk, Ltd., and a consignment for the Grocery Stall from Messrs. White, Tomkins and Courage, Ltd., of Lincoln. We have also several other promises of gifts for the Stalls, details of which we hope to be able to give later.

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In the midst of preparations for "St. Joan's Fair," we must not overlook the "Green, White and Gold Fair," organised by the Women's Freedom League, at Caxton Hall, Westminster, on Nov. 30th and Dec. 1st, at which the C.W.S.S. will have a stall as usual. This has become an annual event to which we look forward for the pleasure of meeting our fellow suffragists and the profit of helping our own funds. We shall need an immense number of gifts to keep both this stall and our others at "St. Joan's Fair" well stocked for two days.

GABRIELLE JEFFERY.

Review.

SISTERS' QUARTERS: SALONIKA. By Marguerite Fedden (Grant, Richards. 6s. net.).

One of the few consoling aspects of the great war is the generous and whole-hearted manner in which individuals of every class were inspired to volunteer for work of all kinds in the service of the nation. Miss Fedden deals in this book with her experiences in Salonika, where she was stationed for some time preparing special diets for the sick. It does not take a vivid imagination to realise that Miss Fedden's cheerful narrative disguises, what must have been very hard work, coupled with no little inconvenience. The spirit of the men in the trenches was an example, which left its mark on the whole nation. In a Foreword General Sir Bryan Mahon speaks of the pleasure the book has given him, and says: "As a soldier I take this opportunity of thanking Miss Fedden and her fellow-workers for what they have done for us. It is only those who have lived in Salonika during the unhealthy periods of the year who can realise what the Nursing Sisters and V.A.D.'s have been through, and the courage and determination they displayed through it all." The book has some fascinating illustrations by Lieutenant F. V. Carpenter.

ST. JOAN'S FAIR

To be held at the
Central Hall, Westminster
on
Dec. 16th and 17th, 1921

To raise money for the C.W.S.S.

17 Catholic Societies are also taking
Stalls for the benefit of their own funds.

See List on page 91.

H. E. Cardinal Bourne

will open the Fair.

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LECTURES.

Wed. 16th Nov., 8-15 p.m. "The Extinction of Liberty." Mr. G. K.
Chesterton. Chairman—Lady Bonham Carter.
Wed. 23rd Nov., 8-15 p.m.—"Psyche-Analysis," Mr. William Brown,
M.D. D. C. Chairman—Dr. Christine Murrell.
Wed. 30th Nov., 8-15 p.m. "Woman's New Horizon." Miss Adeline
Bourne. Chairman—Miss Winifred Mayo.
Wed. 7th Dec., 8-15 p.m. "Nationalism." Captain Colin Coote,
D.S.O. M.P. Chairman—Mrs. Jarvis.
Wed. 14th Dec. "The Mandate for Palestine." Miss Frances E.
Newton, F.R.G.S., A.R.C.I. Chairman—Mrs. Fawcett, LL.D.
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WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE. PUBLIC MEETINGS

Monday Evenings, at 7 p.m.

Minerva Cafe, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.
(Near Museum Tube Station, entrance in Silver St.)

Nov. 14. "Women and International Life." Miss
PICKTON TURBERVILL, O.B.E. Chair: Mrs. T. Dexter
Nov. 21. "Fairy Tales. A General Outline of
Comparative Religion." Mrs. CHARLES BEATTY,
C.B.L. Chair: Mrs. Flowers.
Nov. 28. "The Psychology of Public Opinion."
Mr. DIMSDALE STOCKER. Chair: Mrs. Lucas.
Dec. 5. "The Principle and Practice of Dismissing
Married Women." Miss LINDA-F-HAGEBY.
Chair: Mrs. Mustard.
Dec. 12. "Anatole France," Mr. W. L. GEORGE,
Chair: Mrs. McMichael.
Reserved Seats 1/-. Admission Free. Collection.

The International Woman Suffrage News

The Monthly Organ of
THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

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