

THE

Catholic Citizen

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

Vol. X, No. 10.

NOVEMBER 15th, 1924.

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.

International Abolitionist Congress.

By SYLVIA GRIEVESON.

The picturesque city of Graz was rendered even more gay by the flags which decorated its streets in honour of the two International Congresses which took place from the 18th to the 24th of September—the International Abolitionist Federation Congress being preceded by the Congress for the Suppression of Traffic in Women and Children.

On Sunday, the 21st ult., in the Cathedral, Doctor Ude, the President of the "Oesterreiche Volkerwacht," preached to a packed congregation on the work of the two Congresses, to which fifty-one Bishops sent their warmest approbation. Doctor Ude's eloquence and zeal for the cause to which he devotes his life, produced a marked effect upon his listeners.

High Mass was followed by the reception of the Delegates by the President of the Republic, Doctor Hainisch, who had travelled to Graz expressly for this purpose—the President in the course of his speech emphasised the need of a moral even more than an economic reconstruction, and the necessity of an aroused sense of responsibility in these grave matters among the young men of this generation.

At the Public Meeting the large Hall was thronged by an immense crowd—many of the people being obliged to stand.

The Right Rev. Dr. Prohaska, Bishop of Stuhlweissenburg, in Hungary, was enthusiastically received. He deplored the loss of spiritual ideals, and impressed upon his hearers that only the grace of God could enable them to live according to the great

principles of the Catholic Faith. The various delegates of the two Congresses gave short speeches of appreciation for their kindly reception, especial interest being aroused by Charoui Pasha, an Egyptian lady, who spent her married life in a Harem, and now is engaged in active work for the welfare of women in her own country.

On Monday, at the opening of the Congress, M. H. Minod, in his paper, admirably summed up the history of the movement in various countries, giving much space to Great Britain's long and successful fight in the cause. He reaffirmed the Federation's belief in the sanctity of every human personality—the single moral standard—and its opposition to Regulation, and the application of exceptional measures under any pretext of morals.

1. Experiences subsequent to the Abolition of Regulation in the countries which have effected such abolition.

Doctor Ude (Austria) spoke with his accustomed sincerity of the shame of Regulation being allowed in a country professing the teachings of the Sermon on the Mount. The Austrian Bishops and Archbishops and Cardinal made a notable appeal in 1923 against this great moral evil. The speaker deplored that, although some progress has been made in the closing of maisons tolerées, there are still 1614 women engaged under the control of the police in Austria.

Doctor von Düring (Frankfort-on-Main), who has made an exhaustive study of these questions, declared in the course of his in-

vestigations that no country having once abolished regulation would even consider its re-imposition.

The question of Prostitution should not be confused with that of Venereal Disease—the latter must be fought on hygienic grounds, while the former is essentially an ethical problem.

Mrs. Muller Otfried (M.P., Hanover), said she had been deeply disappointed with the little progress the cause of Abolition has made this year in the Reichstag. Women voters are taking an intense interest in the question, and public opinion will force another Bill to be brought forward in the near future.

Dr. Bronner (Soviet-Russia), said Regulation was abolished after the Revolution of 1917. The members of the Congress strongly dissented when he stated that free union now takes the place of marriage, and abortion is legal (but births are on the increase). Men and women are paid equal salaries, and have equal rights in all questions concerning marriage and the family. Treatment of Venereal Disease is gratuitous—it is on the decline.

2. Practical Problems in the transit from Regulation to a just and scientific system.

Dr. Helen Wilson (Sheffield) described Regulation as immoral, unjust, and unscientific, while Abolition is founded on justice and humanity, the two great principles which guided Josephine Butler. They were the foundations upon which the Federation is built. Fortunately, Dr. Wilson's speech can be obtained in pamphlet form, and it should certainly be read by all those who desire a clear understanding of the idealism of the Abolitionist movement and its practical problems.

3. Consideration of the relation of V.D. to other contagious diseases.

Dr. Veldhuyzen (Amsterdam), in a most interesting paper, examined this question from the medical and legislative point of view. He stated that regard for human liberty and modern research demanded that new laws should replace the old coercive measures.

Voluntary V.D. Treatment has proved entirely successful in Holland, but education and self-control were the true means of combating these social evils.

The Congress passed Resolutions to the effect that:

1. Experience had proved to the delegates that the Abolition of Regulation has in no way impaired public health or order, or increased prostitution. On the contrary, a striking improvement has been produced in these three points.

2. All work for Social Health must be founded on the two following principles: (a) Consideration of the sanctity of every human person; (b) Equal rights for every one in the application of measures. The Congress rejects all laws directed solely against prostitutes: it declares the true means of curing these moral and physical evils lies in the care and education of the young in the family. The Congress also declares itself in favour of an entirely free system of the treatment of V.D.

3. Consideration of V.D. in relation to other contagious diseases.

Present-day research tends to individualise contagious diseases. This proves the inefficacy of all coercive measures and compulsory medical examination and treatment of suspected persons.

Representatives from twenty-five countries voted, and the resolutions 1 and 3 were passed with only one dissentient, and the second resolution unanimously.

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance was represented at the Congress by Miss Sylvia Grieverson.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

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

The Branch held the fifth of its Ordinary meetings on October 20 at 91 Bedford Street, when a small but interested audience listened to an able address by Mr. Hartley Bolton, B.A., on the Taxation of Land Values as a cure for poverty. At the Committee meeting preceding the Ordinary meeting, it was decided to postpone the American Tea until some Saturday in December, in order to allow of preparation on a larger scale than had originally been intended. The next meeting will be on November 24, at the usual time, and will be addressed, it is hoped, by some member of the League of Nations Union on the League of Nations.

On polling day, October 29, by request of the Alliance, our associate, Dom Gilbert Higgins, C.R.L., offered Mass "to beg Divine Guidance on the men and women electors."

Notes and Comments.

The defeat of Mrs. Wintringham and other women M.P.'s. is a great blow to the ideals we stand for. Elsewhere in these columns we deal with this and other aspects of the General Election, in which as a non-party organisation we are concerned.

* * * *

We ask all our readers to bring to the notice of their friends the lecture on "Communicating with the Dead," which will be delivered by Rev. Fr. Herbert Thurston, S.J., at the St. Marylebone Hall, Marylebone Road, on Tuesday, December 9, at 8 p.m. The meeting, organised by St. Joan's S.P.A., should be of great interest both to Catholics and non-Catholics, and we hope to have a crowded audience. Tickets and handbills are now ready at 55 Berners Street, W. 1, and early application should be made for both.

* * * *

The Jubilee Service of the London School of Medicine for Women, in thanksgiving for the opportunities for training, work, and service, opened to women in the last 50 years, was held at St. Paul's on October 27. It comes at a moment when a direct attack is being made on women doctors. The London County Council has decided to dismiss married women doctors; St. Mary's Hospital has gone back on their support of co-education, and is closing their Medical School to women. The usual letters have appeared in the press saying that men students feel embarrassed when working side by side with women. In that case, we say that these men have chosen the wrong profession, and certainly have no right to attend women patients.

* * * *

On October 25, Holy Mass was offered in the Lady Chapel, Westminster, Cathedral, in thanksgiving for the fiftieth anniversary of the London School of Medicine for Women, the celebrant being Mgr. Canon Moyes. Our chairman, Miss Kathleen FitzGerald, represented St. Joan's.

* * * *

We congratulate our member, Mrs. Russell, on her appointment as J.P. for Hampstead.

The I.W.S.A. Hut, at Wembley, has been in charge of St. Joan's S.P.A. every Saturday during the whole six months that the Exhibition was open. We offer our sincere thanks to all voluntary workers who helped us in this. We have especially to thank Miss Fedden, who scarcely missed one Saturday, and also Miss Bodley and Miss Garry.

* * * *

The "Pass the Women's Bill Meeting," convened by the Women's Freedom League in support of the Equal Franchise Bill, was turned into a meeting of protest at there being for a fourth time, since the partial enfranchisement of women, a General Election, while five million adult women are still voteless. Miss Eleanor FitzGerald represented St. Joan's S.P.A. at this meeting, and emphasised the fact that our patron, St. Joan, would not have been qualified to vote, as she was only 19 when she was martyred. Even after all women got the vote, there would still be much to do. The big things in this life were always done by small bodies of sincere, enthusiastic and zealous workers.

The meeting had the support of twenty-four organisations.

* * * *

Twelve societies of the Consultative Committee supported the resolution, moved by Miss A. M. F. Cole, for St. Joan's S.P.A., calling upon the Government to stop the export of Horses for Butchery, by facilitating the Exportation of Horses Bill.

* * * *

We ask our readers to pray for the repose of the soul of Mr. Britten, who was one of our earliest associates. His death is a great loss to the Catholic world.—R.I.P.

Death of Mme. de Witt Schlumberger.

It is with the deepest regret that we learn of the death of Mme. de Witt Schlumberger, President of the French Suffrage Society, and Vice-President of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance. Her death is a deep loss to the woman's movement, not only in France, but in other countries also.—R.I.P.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE,

AND
Editorial Office of "Catholic Citizen":

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

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

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The General Election and After.

The General Election, which killed the Equal Franchise and other Bills we were promised this session, has also robbed us of five women members of Parliament. Mrs. Wintringham, whose defeat we specially lament, being our second woman M.P., fell a victim, as did Lady Terrington, in the general rout of the Liberal Party. Miss Bondfield, Miss Susan Lawrence, and Miss Jewson, who won seats for their party last year, also suffered from the reaction against the Labour Party.

The Woman's Leader gives the figures for the votes polled by women candidates, showing that the average increases with every election. In 1918 they had an average of 3,462 votes; in 1922, 6,943; in 1923, 8,345; and this year an average of 9,750.

Lady Astor, to our great consolation, still holds the fort for us, and we believe that the new woman M.P., Miss Wilkinson, who won Middlesbrough E. in the interests of Labour, will fight for our ideal of equal citizenship. The Duchess of Atholl and Mrs. Hilton Phillipson are, unluckily, opposed to Equal Franchise, but on other questions we may have their help.

As in former years, St. Joan's S.P.A. in its character of a non-party organisation, called on its members to give help wherever possible to women candidates. To quote the words of the circular letter to members:

"We are by no means unmindful of the important national issues at stake, and we know our members will give them due consideration. Our own particular work, however, lies in pressing the questions con-

cerning women, and these we have reduced to a minimum in order to emphasise their importance. We would beg every member, even if she is not already a voter, to put these questions to local candidates, laying particular stress on the question dealing with equal franchise. If the candidate has already been in Parliament, we ask her to judge him on his *past* record.

"It is essential that every effort should be made to return to Parliament more women of all parties who are pledged to our reforms, this being by far the quickest way of obtaining them. Therefore, we ask you, whenever you conscientiously can, to help the women candidates. A list of women candidates, together with their replies to our questions, is at the office, and offers of voluntary workers will be gratefully accepted."

The questions issued by the Alliance were as follows:

1. EQUAL FRANCHISE.

Will you urge the Government to bring in and pass into law as one of their first legislative measures, a Bill giving votes to women at the same age and on the same terms as men?

2. EQUAL MORAL STANDARD.

Are you in favour of abolishing the present one-sided solicitation laws which apply only to women?

3. EQUAL PAY AND OPPORTUNITIES.

Will you support legislation in favour of equal pay for equal work and equal opportunities for training, entry and pro-

motion in industrial and professional undertakings?

4. EQUAL GUARDIANSHIP.

Will you urge the Government to bring in a Bill to give women equal rights and responsibilities with men as regards their children?

5. WIDOWS' PENSIONS.

Will you urge the Government to establish without delay, a system of adequate pensions for widows with dependent children?

The Alliance also sent a letter to the Government protesting against another General Election taking place while so many women are still unenfranchised, and in spite of the Labour Government's pledge to give equal political rights to men and women. To the Conservative and Liberal Leaders the Alliance wrote expressing astonishment at the absence of any mention of Equal Franchise in the manifesto of these two parties, and asking for a definite assurance that if returned to power a Bill giving votes to women on the same terms as men would be introduced and passed into Law.

The Conservatives being returned with a sweeping majority, our interest now centres in their manifesto. Before the election Mr. Baldwin issued the following statement: "The Unionist Party are in favour of equal political rights for men and women, and desire that the question of an extension of the franchise should, if possible, be settled by agreement. With this in view, they would, if returned to power, propose that the matter be referred to a Conference of all Parties on the lines of the Ullswater Committee." The question of equal guardianship and pensions for widows with dependent children were dealt with in Mr. Baldwin's address.

So far so good: but why another Conference? The present franchise law in its injustice to women is an outrage of which women are becoming more than impatient. Are there not enough lovers of justice among members of Parliament to establish the equality so long demanded?

L. DE ALBERTI.

Members of the Alliance gave help to Mrs. Wintringham, Dame Helen Gwynne Vaughan, Mrs. Mercer, Miss Susan Lawrence, and Mrs. Porter.

International Woman Suffrage Alliance Pavilion at Wembley.

For those of our readers who have not been able to visit Wembley, we may mention that the British Overseas Committee Hut, gabled and lattice-windowed, was situated in Cleanway, under the shadow of the Giant Switchback, and opposite the Church Army Caravan and the Shetland Pony Stables. Now that the voluntary workers (who have gone religiously in fine and rain, and heat and cold, and staffed the Hut early and late), have accomplished their task, it may be well to look back on their work and to debate on its efficacy. At first the verdict may not be satisfactory, when the cost, time and labour are considered—comparatively few visitors—the Hut not in good position, for Quality Street and its environs were overrated and the proximity of the Amusements Park was not calculated to bring many serious enquirers over our threshold.

But on second thoughts we may deem we have done good work in silencing the scoffer, breaking down ignorance and disarming prejudice. Scoffing, for did not a laughing Canadian youth ask if the stones with which we weighted our papers were the self-same with which we were pelted in the old days?

Ignorance for an assiduous worker inveighing people to sign the petition was able to lighten the darkness of at least one individual.

"Come in and sign our petition," she said brightly.

Member of British Public: "What for?"

Assiduous Worker: "Equal Franchise."

Member of British Public, with eyes glistening at the idea of a new murder drama: "Who's he?"

Prejudice for the dreamy Oxford man who strolled in for a chat, has now realised that the suffrage women do not all sport stiff collars and ties, nor do they adopt the divided skirt of his boyish nightmares.

The Yorkshire mill-hand, the Sheffield steel-worker, the Welsh collier, have come up in their thousands and have learnt that the suffragettes, whom they had been taught to call "the wild women," are merely ordinary, intelligent people, keen on their work for the cause of humanity. And great propaganda has been done from our little Hut by giving out leaflets and literature to count-

(Continued on next page.)

International Notes.

La Française is agitating the question of whether unmarried mothers should not be entitled, out of respect for their maternity, to be addressed as Madame, and the suggestion seems to be winning very wide support among its readers. A further suggestion that all unmarried women over a certain age should enjoy this privilege seems to complicate the question somewhat.

The *Mouvement Féministe* (Geneva) draws attention to the recent death of M. Guillermin, a Swiss Catholic Deputy, who was a very staunch friend to the suffrage movement. It was he who introduced into the Grand Council the very moderate suffrage measure which, unfortunately, received very ignominious treatment from the anti-suffrage majority. Suffragists are none the less grateful to him for his initiative.—R.I.P.

It is interesting to read that out of a total staff of 1,200, there are no less than 400 women employed in one capacity or another by the Vienna police department. Nevertheless, there are no police women to be seen on the Vienna streets; their work, though often highly responsible, is all carried on behind the scenes.

Germany seems to stand sadly in need of an Equal Guardianship Bill! Frau Marie Stritt, writing in *Ius Suffragii*, explains that the German father always retains parental control over the children even when he is the guilty party in a divorce case. He only loses it in case of a sexual offence against his child (though not over his other children!), and even then the mother cannot be made guardian to her own child, but the Court appoints another man.

Die Christliche Frau publishes a very sympathetic account of the *Ika* Congress at Lugano. It seems there were more Germans there than any other nationality. A long serious article discusses in rather pessimistic mood women in German political life, assuming their role so far to have been somewhat of a failure. The conclusion, however, is one in which we can all agree: that to-day it rests with the women themselves to free

themselves from clogging prejudices and to develop their God-given maternal instincts as the basis, not only of their interior strength, but also of their external activity.

We read in *Equal Rights* that the Woman's Party, in its non-partisan campaign to get women elected to Congress, is concentrating on one State, Pennsylvania, where it is running five carefully selected candidates. Four of the women are standing on the La Follette ticket, and one, Miss Van Skite, a school-teacher, as a Prohibitionist. Other women are, of course, running in other States.

Meanwhile the N.C.W.C. continues its definite protests against the principle of Equal Rights. In its Report submitted by Bishop Gibbons to the American Bishops at their Annual Meeting in September last, Equal Rights appears to be put in the same category as Birth Control. The Report continues: "Legislation consequent to the adoption of such an amendment would likely contain many objectionable features, such as the right of a married woman to occupy a separate domicile and to retain her own name, provisions repugnant to the Catholic idea of marriage and the sanctity of the home."

Dr. Beatrice Gonzaga is the first woman in Brazil to fill a university post. She has just been unanimously nominated by the Faculty of Medicine of Rio Janeiro to a chair of micro-biology.

As we go to Press we learn that two women Governors have been elected in the United States: Mrs. Ferguson for Texas, and Mrs. Ross for Wyoming. We offer them our hearty congratulations.

V. M. C.

I.W.S.A. Pavilion at Wembley. (Continued.)
less people, who have slipped the pamphlets in their free sample bags, for perusal at their leisure on their way home in packed excursion train.

Who knows how the seed sown at random may find good soil and fructify, thus abolishing sex antagonism and injustice?

M. F.

The 6th International Congress for the Suppression of Traffic in Women and Children, Graz, September 18—20, 1924.

So numerous were the delegates who wished to attend the Congress, that the local Committee gratefully accepted the offer of the large Stephaniensaal, situated in the centre of the city.

The International character of the meeting was emphasised by Doctor Ude, the President of the "Oesterreiche Volkerwacht," in the cordial speech of welcome which he gave in German, French, English, Italian, and Slavish, to the various delegates and representatives of 25 countries.

The most encouraging reports of the diminution of the Traffic were given by the various delegates.

The Congress especially welcomed Mr. Yates Maesto Wang, the Chinese Delegate, who had been especially commissioned by his Government to find the best means of combating this evil trade.

The Congress expressed its great pleasure that the League of Nations had been entrusted with the task of co-ordinating the work of the Governments against the Traffic in Women and Children, and that it has recognised the valuable efforts that the International Bureau and the other Voluntary Organisations, by appointing them as Assessors to the Permanent Advisory Committee.

The Congress expressed the opinion that every State, members of the League, should sign and ratify the Convention of 1921, and that is the duty of the National Committees to use every endeavour to press upon their Governments the urgent necessity of doing so.

The Congress discussed fully the question of obscene publications, and passed the following resolution: "Obscene Publications being considered a serious menace to morality, particularly of young people, and a direct incentive to the traffic in women and children, the Congress urges the National Committees to take every possible step to see that their Governments sign, ratify, and carry out the Convention of 1923."

The question of emigration was also fully discussed, and the Congress agreed with the recommendations for the protection of women and children emigrants proposed by the Advisory Committee of the League of Nations, and approved by the Congress at Rome.

There was considerable divergence of opinion on the question of the prohibition of the employment of foreign women in the maisons tolerées, but finally the Congress passed a resolution stating that in the opinion of the Congress the system of regulation constitutes the chief cause of the traffic in women, and that it will continue to fight uncompromisingly for the abolition of State Regulation of vice.

The Congress was strong in the support of Women Police.

On the closing day of the Congress Dr. Ude preached in the Cathedral to a very large congregation. He made an eloquent appeal for true sanctity in family life: if the people would consider the Holy Family and make that their

ideal, the evils with which the Congress was concerned would not exist.

Later in the day the Delegates had the honour of meeting Doctor Hainisch, the President of the Republic, who expressed his cordial sympathy with the work of the Congress and his certainty of the suppression of the evils of the Traffic, if sufficiently strong measures are taken—the police in Austria being especially active in the matter.

At the final public meeting the largest audience ever seen poured into the big Hall. After the speeches of the delegates the Right Reverend Bishop Prohaska spoke long and earnestly of the grave moral dangers of the present day, and appealed to his hearers to dedicate themselves to the great fight for purer and higher ideals.

Amid scenes of great enthusiasm the Congress closed.

On behalf of St. Joan's Alliance Miss Sylvia Grieson attended the Congress as an "adherent" from Great Britain.

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TREASURER'S NOTE.

I gratefully acknowledge the above subscriptions, which include several earmarked for our Election work. Elsewhere in the paper will be found an account of such help as the Alliance was able to give to the Women's cause in the short time. We ask all members now to do their utmost to sell tickets for Father Thurston's lecture on December 9, and remind them of the Christmas Sale on November 28 and 29. Any and every gift for the latter will be warmly welcomed. We are counting on these two events to retrieve our financial position.

G. JEFFERY.

**ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND
POLITICAL ALLIANCE.**

NON-PARTY.

Office—55, Berners St., Oxford St., London, W.
Patron: Saint Joan of Arc. Colours: Blue, White & Gold
Organ—"The Catholic Citizen," 2d. monthly.

OBJECT.

To band together Catholics of both sexes, in order to secure the political, social and economic equality between men and women, and to further the work and usefulness of Catholic women as citizens.

MEMBERSHIP.

All Catholic women are eligible as Members, who approve the object and methods, and will pay a minimum annual subscription of 1s. Men are invited to join as Associates, on the same conditions, with the exception that they may not elect or be elected to the Executive.

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Printed for the Publishers by S. WALKER, Catholic Printer, Hinckley, Leic.

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PUBLIC LECTURE

entitled:

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WITH THE DEAD."**

will be given by

Rev. Herbert Thurston, S.J.,

on

Tuesday, December 9th, 1924,

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