

WOMEN'S SERVICE
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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.

Women Jurors in Ireland.

BY PROFESSOR MARY HAYDEN.

When (Autumn 1922) the draft of the constitution proposed for the new Irish Free State appeared, the women of "the Twenty Six counties" believed that practically all for which they had struggled would be secured. for the third article laid down that men and women should have "equal rights" and adult suffrage was suggested.

When, however, the Constitution came up before the Dail for ratification, the Provisional Government desired to have the adjective "political" inserted before "rights" in Article 3. The various Women's Societies took alarm and, in spite of difficulties due to the postal strike and to the short time available for action, memorials of protest were prepared and extensively signed, with the result that the proposed alteration was not made.

At the first elections under the Free State Constitution several women successfully contested seats, but all of them, except one, were of the Republican party and refused to sit in the Dail. In the Senate, however, four women, all of whom happily are still there, took their seats.

The first matter directly affecting women which came up for discussion in the Dail (1924), was the question of women jurors. The majority of Irish women being no more altruistic than are the majority of women (and men) elsewhere, rejoiced when legislation was proposed which would enable them merely on request and without cause shown,

to have their names struck off the jury list. They concerned themselves with no theory further than the fact that they would be relieved from an irksome duty. The Irish Women Citizens' Association voiced another and wider view. They circularised all the Deputies and in letters to the Press, pointed out what the effect of the measure would be. All was in vain, the Bill passed and, as might have been foreseen, and indeed *was* foreseen the women acted as men in their places would have acted, about three-fourths of those whose names had appeared on the jury-lists requested that these should be removed. The few valiant ones who desired to perform their duties as citizens found every obstacle thrown in their way by the authorities. Almost always, the State's unlimited right of challenge was exercised against them and after wasting days or even a couple of weeks about the courts, they were ordered to "stand aside," even in cases where the presence of women on the jury would have been peculiarly desirable to promote the ends of justice. All these considerations were put before the Minister of Justice by a deputation sent by the Dublin Council of Women, but with no result. Those who promoted the Exemption Bill confined themselves chiefly to repeating over and over again that most women "disliked jury service," which no one ever denied, or to insulting suggestions that those who did not were moved

by a prurient desire to pry into the details of unsavoury cases.

It was now resolved by the Free State Government to get rid of the latter class of undesirable females altogether, and (Spring 1927), a Bill was drafted by which all women were absolutely excluded from jury-service. During the debates which followed when the Bill was introduced one heard much of "female modesty" and something also of female temper. The Minister for Internal Affairs declaring that women who were summoned for juries, having forgotten to demand exemption, frequently went down to the court and roundly abused the officials. Of course, their tactics were successful. Had they attempted to obtain remission of Income Tax by "ballyragging" the clerks in the Revenue Office, the result would, one feels sure, have been rather different. But of this they were doubtless aware and refrained.

Again the Irish Women Citizen Association took the field. Deputies were circularised, leaflets were issued, giving the views of important authorities in other countries, the Recorder of London was one—on the value of women jurors. Members of the Association "lobbied" zealously. A small measure of success rewarded their efforts.

In the Dail the Bill was vigorously opposed by Professor Magennis (Deputy of the National University) and others and Mr. James Craig (Deputy for Dublin University) succeeded in getting the Government to accept an amendment, which allowed women otherwise eligible, to have their names entered on the jury panel on their own request. It is generally believed that this was agreed to, because the minister had been informed by legal authorities that the proposal, in its original form, would be a violation of (Article 3.) of the Constitution.

Of course, this Amendment is most unsatisfactory. Few women will be public spirited enough to impose on themselves an irksome duty which they can avoid; especially as the State retains its unlimited right of challenge and will probably continue to exercise it against them. Moreover, women who are employees—as very large numbers of women rate-payers are—will not be permitted by their employers to enter their names, as jury-service would entail their absence from work.

Trafalgar Square Demonstration.

On July 16, at 5 p.m., a big demonstration in support of Equal Franchise is to be held in Trafalgar Square and St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance is one of the societies organising it, all members are asked to come and swell the crowd of supporters both during the speeches and at the end when the resolution is passed. This meeting will be an important spur to the Government and will prove to the world at large that Mr. Baldwin is really carrying out the will of the people in introducing a Government measure which will enable women to go to the polls at 21 and on the same terms as men.

We hope to see a large number of our "under thirties" whose presence will announce to onlookers that they are really in earnest in their desire not to be classed any longer with infants, imbeciles and idiots. We know we shall see a number of "over thirties", workers in the cause for perhaps a score of years who realise how their lives have been handicapped and how their careers have been frustrated by the lack of citizenship and by withholding of the vote so essential in making suitable conditions for their homes, their professions or industries. Miss Kathleen Fitzgerald, B.A., and Miss Butler-Bowden, will speak on behalf of St. Joan's S.P.A.

Once we have Equal Citizenship, we can concentrate on essential reforms such as the Reform of the Solicitation Laws, the Abolition of State Regulations of Vice in the British Empire, the Nationality of Married Women, Married Women's Right to Work, Peeresses in the House of Lords, etc., etc. We can also help our South African sisters in their struggle for enfranchisement for example is better than precept. So please roll up in your hundreds to Trafalgar Square, wet or fine, July 16, and strike a final blow for freedom.

We are glad to note that two women are to speak at the Semaine Sociale to be held at Nancy in August. We believe that this is the first time women have been included among the speakers at the chief meetings since the foundation of these Semaines Sociales.

Notes and Comments.

We hope all our readers in or near London will make an effort to get to Trafalgar Square on July 16th. The Prime Minister is in earnest, we firmly believe, upon the question of Equal Franchise, but victory is not yet won, and big demonstrations strengthen the Government's hands, and bring victory closer.

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We regret the reactionary step taken by Oxford University in limiting, by a vote of 229 to 164, the number of women students. Mr. Cyril Bailey, of Balliol, and Miss Margery Fry, Principal of Somerville, spoke against the proposal. Miss Fry said she was weary of the discussion of the position of women, and that women did their best work when allowed to do so, not as women, but as human beings.

Feminists are sometimes accused of making a sex war, whereas it would be more true to say, that it is the jealous fear of some men, who endeavour to prevent women making any advance, which keeps the feminist societies in being.

* * * *

A delightful gathering was held at Crosby Hall, on June 11th, to celebrate Dame Millicent Fawcett's eightieth birthday. A cheque for £1,000 was presented to Dame Millicent, who handed it to Professor Caroline Spurgeon, for the endowment of a Dame Millicent Fawcett room at Crosby Hall. St. Joan's was among the many organizations represented at this memorable reception.

* * * *

Miss Margaret Bondfield's speech at the International Labour Conference in favour of special protective legislation for women, will spur feminists to greater efforts to combat this dangerous system of protection. Unfortunately Miss Bondfield was speaking as adviser to the British Government's representative, but certainly not in the name of British women. In this country the opposition to special restrictions on women's labour is steadily gaining ground. Protection for all workers, and a free field for women, is what is needed.

We are glad to see that Sir Austen Chamberlain in presenting to the Council of the League the report of the Committee on the Traffic in Women, supported the Committee's request for the publication of the second part of the Report on Prostitution, which has been held up. We understand that the Report will be published after Government have made their observations upon it. It is to be hoped that when published it will be available to the public in the same way that other publications of the League are available. Publicity is a step towards abolition of licensed houses and the traffic in women.

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Unfortunately, women did badly in the Irish Elections, the two candidates for Co. Dublin, Mrs. Guinness and Miss O'Farrell, were defeated, and of the four women elected to the Dail only one, Mrs. O'Driscoll, will take her seat, the other three being Republicans. The two Ministers most hostile to women who promoted the Civil Service Bill and the Jury Bill, have been returned.

The International Congress for the Suppression of Traffic in Women.

St. Joan's sent three adherents to the above-named Congress: Councillor Mrs. Crawford, Miss Douglas Irvine, and Miss Barry. Delegates from about thirty countries attended. Limited space prevents us from giving a full report of the Congress, but we must quote the following from Dame Rachel Crowley's speech, with which we are heartily in accord:

"It is not by restricting the freedom of women that you will stop this traffic. It is by the education of girls and boys, and perhaps particularly your boys that it will be done. Very few of us would feel that our boys would play the part they sometimes do in life if they would realise that it is they themselves who are financing the traffic. If this could be brought home to them we should far more quickly put an end to it than by tightening up emigration laws or restricting the freedom of women."

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE,

AND

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

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The Josephine Butler Centenary.

1828-1928.

Preparations are already being made for the celebration of the centenary of Josephine Butler, who has been called "The most heroic and the most sympathetic figure of the nineteenth century." In this quick-changing world, while each generation finds new problems to solve, even heroic figures are liable to be forgotten, and it becomes necessary from time to time to remind a new generation whose work has been made easier by the sufferings of pioneers, of the great deeds accomplished by their predecessors.

We believe that most readers of the *Catholic Citizen* have some knowledge of Josephine Butler and her campaign against the Contagious Diseases Acts, and we know that many of them may be counted among her followers. Yet we can recommend to them all the pamphlet issued by the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, in commemoration of the centenary. (Josephine Butler Centenary. An Appreciation, by M. E. Turner, 6d.) Miss Turner is to be congratulated on the admirable way in which she has handled her subject, and made a lovable personality and heroic woman live again.

It is well for us to remember that while we may safely write and speak upon the problem of prostitution, and frank discussion is necessary, when Josephine Butler first launched her campaign, she called down on herself the wrath of respectable people, so much so that a Member of Parliament could say in the House, "I look upon these women who have taken up this matter as worse than prostitutes."

"Josephine Butler, was not, as some of her opponents believed, an emotional visionary." Miss Turner tells us, "On the contrary she was the clear-sighted realist that all true mystics are. That was the source of her strength. She belonged to the strange rare fellowship of "God-intoxicated" souls whose lives are a flame to destroy or a living force to create."

So great is her influence that she still remains the Court of Appeal, where some doubtful measure is put forward to combat the traffic in women, or to save young girls from adopting an immoral life. We may say with perfect truth, that but for Josephine Butler's work, we might have seen State Regulation re-established in England in the early days of the war; and it was due to her teaching that women in Great Britain rose in their anger to fight the iniquitous Regulation 40 D. It is in those countries where the mass of women are still in ignorance of all that is implied in State Regulation of Vice that the shameful system is able to exist. It is because Catholic women have hesitated to attack the system, due to their ignorance, that it is tolerated in Catholic countries. When these women have awakened to their responsibility in this matter, the system will be abolished; as it was abolished in this country.

What Josephine Butler wrote in 1875 is still the best challenge we have read:

"This system," writes Mrs. Butler in 1875, "necessitates the greatest crime of which earth

can be witness, the crime of blotting out the soul by depriving God's creatures of free will, of choice, and of responsibility, and by reducing the human being to the condition of a passive, suffering minister to the basest passions. Yet no power can make of her a mere thing, for the soul awaits the day when it will face its destroyer, and the human nature will yet be avenged of its adversary."

Miss Turner says with truth that "it is strange that historians have given no consideration to this woman whose vision has resulted in a complete revolution of thought on a problem that, for centuries, had baffled legal and ecclesiastical authorities alike." We hope that Miss Turner's pamphlet will fall into the hands of some present or future historian anxious to throw light on a campaign, fought indeed in Great Britain, but which has reverberated in every corner of the globe.

L. DE ALBERTI.

Crosby Hall.

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance was greatly honoured by the presence of Dame Millicent Fawcett at a very successful garden party held on Saturday, the 2nd of July, to raise the sum for the Society's contribution towards the endowment of the Dame Millicent Fawcett Room at Crosby Hall, the International Hall of Residence for University Women. The house and garden of 15 Courtfield Road, South Kensington, were most kindly lent by Miss Lechmere. Mr. Jean Baptiste Toner, that distinguished pianist, most generously gave a recital. His beautiful rendering of several of Chopin's works, of Schumann's "Prophetic Bird," and, above all, of Beethoven's "Sonata Appassionata," will live in the memory of his hearers. St. Joan's S. P. A. is deeply indebted to Mr. Toner.

The Grand Piano was lent by Messrs. Ibach. In a brief speech Miss Helen Douglas Irvine paid a warm tribute to Dame Millicent Fawcett's life work for women's enfranchisement and urged those present to do their share of the work by pressing now for Equal Franchise so that on her next birthday not only suffragists, but the whole nation would celebrate

it by presenting her with an Equal Franchise Act on the Statute Book.

Dame Millicent Fawcett in replying urged the necessity of not slackening our efforts, for while we had no reason to doubt the Prime Minister's intention to fulfil his pledge, no Bill was really safe until actually carried into law.

Among those present were Dr. Else Breitkopf, a Catholic student from Breslau, who is now at Crosby Hall, Madame Holder-Egger, a member of the Polish Parliament, and Miss Brigid Stafford, who had attended the official opening of Crosby Hall as a representative of Dublin University.

THE BANKRUPTCY OF A SYSTEM.

In his booklet, "La Faillite d'un Système," Professor Paul Gemähling, of the University of Strasburg, to whom all who are interested in the abolition of State Regulation of Vice owe a deep debt of gratitude, gives clear and dispassionate proof of the utter failure of the disgraceful system. Under the headings: A Defiance of Hygiene, a Defiance of Morality, and a Defiance of Justice, he exposes the system in all its hideousness, and shows that it has not even the excuse of being of any use in the check of disease. Nearly all the great nations of Europe, says the Professor, having borrowed the system from France, have successively rejected it. He calls upon every section of the community to demand the abolition of the shameful system. No Christian conscience, he rightly declares, can be at peace in a society which demands, in the name of public order, that human beings shall be sacrificed, body and soul, to the vices of some people.

Madame Hoda Charaoui contributes to *L'Egyptienne* (Cairo) an article on the Bill for the suppression of the trade in women and in narcotics which the government of Egypt is now studying. This Bill would extend the penalties which now attach to the practice of these trades, so that foreigners as well as Egyptian subjects would become liable to them.

International Notes.

We learn with regret from "Le Mouvement Féministe" that the electors of Basle rejected the principle of Woman Suffrage for the second time. Basle suffragists, however, show the true suffrage spirit when they announce that this is only a temporary set-back, making them all the more determined to win through to victory next time. We also regret to note that the Catholic Popular Party and the paper "Feuille catholique populaire" are officially opposed to Woman Suffrage. We rejoice, however, to know that a prominent woman connected with this paper has publicly declared herself a whole-hearted supporter of the cause, at the same time announcing that many other Catholic women in Basle are also convinced suffragists.

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It is with great regret that we learn from the *International Woman Suffrage News* that Frau Rudel Zeynek is no longer a member of the National Assembly of Austria. Frau Rudel-Zeynek was the only woman member of the Christian-Socialist party, that is the Catholic party which supports the Chancellor, Monsignor Seipel. She has introduced into Parliament several important Bills in the interests of women and children, most of which have been passed. Members of our Alliance got into close touch with her at the International Women's Suffrage Congress in Paris last year, and found her particularly sympathetic. At the recent elections, she withdrew her candidature at the eleventh hour because she found that her party, with curious short-sightedness, intended to give her a bad place on the electoral list instead of the good one she had had previously. We much hope that her absence from the Assembly is only temporary.

* * * *

Le Féminisme Chrétien (Brussels) reports certain amendments of the Belgian law of divorce and separation. It has been enacted: (1) that wives separated from their husbands shall enjoy full legal capacity; (2) that the married person against whom a separation has been obtained shall lose all rights conferred by wife or husband at the time of marriage or subsequently; and (3) that when a separation, not consequent on

adultery, has lasted three years, the married person who was the defendant in the action for the separation, may petition the court for a divorce, which petition may be granted if the plaintiff in the original action does not when called upon, agree that the separation shall immediately cease.

Amendment (3) is not, as at first appears, a victory for the enemy, for it superseded an enactment which made it not optional but compulsory for the court to grant a divorce when the petition for it was made as stated.

* * * *

La Lutte de la Femme (Athens), the organ of the Hellenic League for Women's Rights, summarises the activity in Greece of this society in 1926-7. Very strenuous efforts have been made to obtain such an amendment of the existing law as would make fathers as well as mothers responsible in every case for their illegitimate children. On behalf of women who work for pay, a memorandum has been sent to the Chamber of Deputies and the party leaders in favour of the provision of adequate pensions for invalidated army nurses, and a protest has been made against an employment of badly paid minors which has thrown many women out of work. The Minister of Education has promised to consider the League's report which shows the need for educating girls to be country housewives. The night schools founded by the League have been active and successful.

The intensive efforts of the League to obtain votes for women have had the highly encouraging result that an explanatory note, which has been added to Article 5 of the Constitution, empowers the legislature to grant political rights to women.

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A very important event in the history of feminism is the grant of the parliamentary vote to women over twenty-one years old in Cuba. The reform is one of the enactments of a law which has been passed in the Chamber of Representatives by the enormous majority of 94 votes to 8, and it gives the national suffrage to women for the first time in Latin America. The provincial suffrage was recently obtained by Latin-American women for the first time in the province of San Juan in Argentina, as recorded in the *Catholic Citizen* for May

1927. The Cuban reform is especially interesting because the Pan-American Congress will meet in Havana, the capital of this country, in January 1928.

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Among the resolutions on the agenda of this, the Sixth Pan-American Congress, is one for the study of the means of abolishing constitutional and legal incapacities which depend on sex. The removal of women's civil and political disabilities in the Americas was proposed by certain delegates to the Fifth Pan-American Congress, held at Santiago-de-Chile in 1923, but did not figure in the official programme of the assembly, so that the resolutions passed under this head were mere expressions of the opinions of individuals. That such a resolution should be included in the official agenda marks an advance.

Señorita Maria Josefa Saavedra, the first woman to obtain the degree of doctor of laws in Bolivia, was recently nominated advocate.

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A Bill granting the suffrage to the women of Porto Rico has been introduced into the Congress of the United States. *Equal Rights* prints a letter written by Dr. Marta Robert de Romeu, on behalf of the *Liga Social Sufragista* of Porto Rico, to acknowledge the part which the National Women's Party of the United States has played in causing this measure to be brought forward.

H. D. I.

The Reform of the House of Lords.

The Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee has sent the following resolution to the Lord Chancellor and the Prime Minister:

"That in any scheme of Reform of the House of Lords proposed by the Government it is essential that Peeresses in their own right shall be placed on an equal footing with Peers, and that the nominated element in the reformed House shall consist of women as well as men."

St. Joan's S.P.A. has sent a similar resolution to Mr. Baldwin and the Lord Chancellor.

In view of the proposed reform, Lord Astor withdrew his Peeresses Bill, believing it to

be superfluous since the matter will be dealt with in the new scheme.

Equal Franchise Campaign.

1. OPEN-AIR MEETINGS.

The Alliance has held regular meetings on Equal Franchise for the past ten weeks at Jack Straw's Castle, Hampstead Heath. The meetings have drawn large crowds and resolutions have always been passed and sent to the Prime Minister and the Member for Hampstead.

We are grateful to those members who spoke for us, also to Mrs. Nevinson, J.P., of the Women's Freedom League and to Miss Woodman of the Young Suffragists who also spoke at these meetings.

2. BRIXTON BYE-ELECTION.

We sent a Parliamentary questionnaire to the three candidates for Brixton, and we are glad to say that all three replied that they were in favour of votes for women at 21 and on the same terms as men, Mr. Colman, the Conservative candidate, adding: "As a member of the London County Council I realise to the full the good work which is being done by women on public bodies, and I firmly believe that the increased interest taken by women in public affairs is of enormous benefit to the community."

3. ISLINGTON DEPUTATION.

An Equal Franchise Deputation to Major Tasker, Member for East Islington, was organised by the Women's Freedom League and held at the House of Commons on June 16, at which we sent a representative from the constituency.

4. LOBBY AND POSTER PARADE.

In connection with the Equal Political Rights Campaign, the Alliance took charge of the lobbying at the House of Commons on July 12, when many members interviewed their M.P.'s. on the question of Equal Franchise.

Members of the Alliance have also been co-operating in the Poster Parade to advertise the Demonstration on July 16.

5. DEMONSTRATION, TRAFALGAR SQUARE, JULY 16, at 5 p.m. WET OR FINE, "BE THERE."

E. B. B.

Free Legal Aid for the Poor.

A hundred and twenty years ago, Blackstone, one of the greatest of English Lawyers, said that professional help should be given to the poor in small matters. The Catholic section of our community has now put the ideal into force, for that is the object for which the Society of Our Lady of Good Counsel was initiated, just a year ago.

It started its work almost silently, enjoying little of that publicity which so many charities receive. Since then, its small handful of Catholic Barristers and Solicitors, helped by a few laymen and laywomen, have assisted about 600 poor people, irrespective of creed, in the Police and County Courts in and around London.

The fundamental difference between this Society and all other efforts which have been made to cope with the legal difficulties of the poor is that it does not content itself with the mere giving of professional advice, but actually initiates and defends actions for the very poor.

In spirit, and in many ways in practice, the operations of this Society are not unlike those of our great voluntary Hospitals. It ministers to the needs and ills of those who need help but cannot help themselves. Every case receives careful and personal attention from the outset. Whenever possible each applicant is interviewed at the Society's offices at 30 Maiden Lane by the Lady Almoner, who enquires carefully as to the means of the applicant, and takes full particulars. These details are then set out and sent on to the Honorary Solicitor who deals with that particular branch of the Law. The matter then passes entirely into his hands, and if necessary he enrolls the services of a Counsel, just as a House Surgeon or Resident M.O. might call in a Specialist.

There exists however one great distinction between the Hospital and this Society. The Hospital can ask the patient to pay as much as he can afford, but owing to the strict rules of professional etiquette existing among Solicitors and at the Bar, in work of this kind, no payment whatsoever can be accepted, whether the action brought or defended for him is successful or not.

It therefore follows that this organization,

however efficiently or economically run, can never, in the pecuniary sense, become a paying proposition. It must for its office expences and disbursements depend upon charity, or else the great need which it is meeting will once again remain merely a need.

Whilst most of the active work of the Society has been performed by men members of the Legal profession, women have also played their part. As has been already mentioned, a Lady Almoner interviews in the first instance, most of the applicants. This is very desirable as the greater percentage are women.

There also exists a Ladies Committee which endeavours to propagate the object of the Society and secure funds, so that its activities may continue and its development be unimpaired.

Many poor people often harbour a grievance, which is really imaginary or for which there exists no legal remedy. Even there the Society helps, for since they are enabled by it to get into direct touch with experienced Lawyers, they get their facts straightened out and at least any feeling of injustice due to their poverty is removed.

A pilgrim once on his return from Lourdes said that what struck him most during his visit to Our Lady's Shrine was not the cures, but the sense of peace that descended upon the sick and suffering and this Society, under the guidance of Our Lady of Good Counsel, tries in its humble way to carry out that same purpose, "If not to cure, at least to relieve."

M. SEYMOUR.

The whole of the March issue of the *Christliche Frau* is devoted to Hedwig Dransfeld, in commemoration of the second anniversary of her death. President for many years of the great German Catholic Frauenbund, she was undoubtedly one of the most influential women in Germany of our day. A writer, a speaker and a woman of great moral influence, she rightly found her place among the first women to be elected to the Reichstag under the Republic. The last address she gave before her death at the age of 54, "The Power of Woman and the Need of the People," sums up the public work of her busy life.

Good Shepherd Convent, Casal Balzan, Malta.

BY A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY.

This Convent, having formerly been a Provincial House is a spacious building with an exquisite church in white stone—altar and sanctuary of red and white marble. Hangings of crimson with yellow stripe give it an oriental look. The whole dominated by a very beautiful life-sized statue of the Sacred Heart. We are fortunate in possessing good grounds and a large farm. This is entirely under the care of our lay sisters, and our vast vegetable gardens are tilled and cultivated by them. Scarcity of water was at one time a great drawback, but Chicago Aermotors for pumping it up have come into fashion, and one has been installed in the corner of our grounds. The sisters have dug trenches and carried out a system of irrigation which is the admiration of the military and naval men privileged to get a glimpse of the interior of our convent, shielded by high walls from the gaze of outsiders. I have taken several round and they were lost in amazement declaring they had no idea women were capable of such work. These sisters are indefatigable.

Thanks to their labour and foresight we enjoy fresh vegetables all the year round in a wonderful variety. No sooner have they gathered in one crop than they prepare the ground and sow another. We have four crops of potatoes—the first in January, the last in November. It does seem strange to partake of new potatoes in these months. The May crop we sell for exportation. Cauliflowers abound, and such cauliflowers, the flower alone larger than a very big dinner plate. We sell them at a penny each. Tomatoes in their season make the ground one crimson glow. We eat them cooked and raw, and the sisters smash them up in large earthenware dishes and put them to cook in the hot summer sun, making a preserve which lasts till the following year. Macaroni cooked in this preserve is considered a dainty—no feast-day fare would be complete without it.

Our lay sisters rise at 4 a.m. in summer (an hour later in winter) spend half-an-hour in prayer, and then work on the farm and land till Mass at six. Peeping from the window at early dawn, I thought it made a pretty picture, worthy of

medieval times, sisters in their white veils, digging and weeding, with goats and kids sporting round them, a bullock harnessed to the quaintest of wooden ploughs being led up and down the field.

We have a large bake house and make our own bread, likewise our wine. Our sister shoemaker makes the community shoes—the girls make theirs. Under the supervision of the sisters they spin and weave all the material for our household use, underwear, and their own pretty uniforms.

We are self-supporting, having no grant from government, though we have about one hundred poor children to educate and provide for, and from eighty to ninety women and girls in our Refuge.

At Christmas we are presented with £60 as an encouragement for our industries, namely:—agriculture, spinning, weaving, lace and artificial flower making—needlework, embroidery of every description.

The lace produced in our workrooms is very different from the course silk stuff sold in England as Maltese lace—made of fine linen thread it has a very different appearance and is the *real* article. A visit to our "Gold Room," so called because all the embroidery here is done in pure gold thread—never fails to elicit surprise and admiration from our visitors. The altar cloths, banners, etc., manufactured in this department are works of art.

Look to your Votes.

On July 15th the new lists of electors for the Annual Register published in October will be open to inspection at public offices, churches, etc. Members of the Alliance who are entitled to a vote should make sure that their names are included in the lists for their constituencies. If not, they should lodge a claim *at once*. No claim will be accepted by Registration Officers which is received later than the first post on Monday, August 8th. After that date no further names can be added to the lists for a year.

**Speech made by Mrs. Sampson,
President of the National Women's
Club, to the Prime Minister of Quebec
and his Cabinet.**

On behalf of the Women workers of Quebec, I respectfully petition you to include in the Bills of this Session one giving the full franchise to the women of the Province.

The workers, whom I have the honour to represent, are employed in the factories, mills, stores, hotels' offices, hospitals, universities and last, but not least, those working in the homes,—the only workers who are not paid but on whom depend the comfort and care of all women and men workers in the Province.

In the history of the Province, there is no mention of inequality; the women pioneers helped equally with their men and their memory is cherished irrespective of sex.

85% of the Province belong to one Faith. That Faith does not admit of the inequality of its members; there are just as many women saints as men. In the schools of the Province belonging to this Faith this is taught in the catechism:

**"IN WHAT RESPECT ARE ALL MEN
EQUAL?"**

All men are equal in whatever is necessary for their nature and end. They are all composed of a body and soul; they are all created in the image and likeness of God; they are all gifted with understanding and free will; they have all been created for the same purpose—God.

Further down in the catechism it says:

**"DOES MAN IN THE CATECHISM
MEAN ALL HUMAN BEINGS?"**

Man in the catechism means all human human beings, either men or women, boys or girls, or children.

There is no part in the world with so many religious institutions in which are the Mother Houses as Quebec.

A few years ago there was built in the Province a new Mother House. The old building was too small. The building had an operating room, a dentist's chamber, two hospitals one of which was for tubercular sisters. Five women superintended the financing of this wonderful enterprise, all

Canadians, their mother tongue was the French language. I asked them where did they get the money for its construction and maintenance. They said they had many houses in Canada and the United States and they all helped. In some of the States they had as many as fifty convents.

If the Quebec Sisters were not competent to organize, administer, and control these enterprising religious and educational institutions the control would pass from them to others across the line or in other parts of Canada. You know gentlemen, this has not happened and is not likely to happen.

Everyone knows of the vast wealth and possibilities of our Province. I would stress before you gentlemen, that the realisation of both of these is in the hands of the youth of both sexes.

It is only a few years, gentlemen, since you were the youths of the Province. In your eminent success you would attribute just as much credit to your Mother as your Father—in your memory there is no question of inequality. Out of loyalty to the Provincial Government preceeding you, you would not admit that the women had deteriorated since your Mother's day. We hold that the women during your regime have kept pace with the rest of the world in advancement.

We are told that our Members of Parliament are our protectors. Unless women have actually voted in his favour, it is an idle assumption on the part of any member to make this claim. He only represents the men of his constituency and not the women. If the Members of Parliament are to be the women's official protectors at least they should have a choice in the holder of these titles.

I have the honour to represent many thousands of Women in the Labour Organization, who are employed in the factories, mills, stores and offices. The members of the Montreal Women's Club, 1028 members, several thousand women represented in the Provincial Suffrage Association, women in business who employ either few or many hands; all these are debarred by their sex from the badge of citizenship—the vote.

The women work side by side with the men, and they obey the laws. Our streets are orderly, there is little poverty or destitution

apparent in Quebec. I do not say it is entirely owing to the women of the Province, but I do say their wonderful thrift has contributed no mean part to this.

It is these workers, men and women, who form your people; on them depend the moral and financial success of the Province. We ask you as good fathers to admit the women and Mothers of the Province not only to work with you, pay the taxes with you, obey the laws with you, but also to vote with you, so that the members of Parliament represent not only one part of the people but all the people of the Province of Quebec.

The Bach Cantata Club.

All who are lovers of music will learn with pleasure of the existence of the Bach Cantata Club. It was founded two years ago, and six concerts are given during the year. Of these four, held at St. Margaret's Church Westminster, provide a selection of Sacred Cantata, with an Organ Solo, and a Congregational Chorale; one, at the Royal College of Music; gives a programme including purely instrumental music; and one, at the Queen's Hall, has so far, consisted of a performance of the B Minor Mass.

Mr. Kennedy Scott is responsible for the concert, and he has a small but wonderfully trained choir of men and women, and an orchestra that is admirable in itself and in its proportion to the size of the Choir. When a harpsichord has been acquired the balance will be perfect. The artists who sing and play at the concerts include many of the best known interpreters of the music of Bach, and it is a pleasure not lightly to be missed, to hear them, supported as they are by so musical a choir and orchestra.

All particulars can be got from Mr. Hubert Foss, the Secretary, Oxford University Press, Amen House, Warwick Square, who will be delighted to hear of new members.

The season begins in January, and for that the (transferable) tickets are 24/- for the six concerts, with reduction for two or more.

Special arrangements can be made for the

concerts on Oct. 25, and on Dec. 6, the latter of which will only take place if new members join in sufficient number to guarantee this season's financial stability.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

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

In spite of the rain members spent a very pleasant day in Chester on June 25th. Fortunately, the weather was more propitious on June 30th., when the Branch held its first open-air meeting for many years at the junction of Dacy Road and Breckfield Road, Mrs. Murphy kindly lent us her car as a platform and presided over the meeting. The speakers were Miss P. Hall, B. Sc., and the Hon. Secretary. Though not very well attended the meeting was quite worth while as the resolution was passed and many of our leaflets were distributed, and the audience was obviously interested in the subject of "Equal Franchise," and we ourselves gained in experience. It is hoped to hold more open-air meetings later on and on better "pitches."

The Branch has lost a very old member by the death of Miss Garton.—R.I.P.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS.

June 1 to 31.

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*Wall, Miss	...	1	1 0
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* Catholic Citizen.

£11 14 6

TREASURER'S NOTE.

Thanks to the very successful Garden Fête on July 2, St. Joan's Alliance was able to hand over a donation of £5 5s towards the endowment of the Dame Millicent Fawcett Room at Crosby Hall.

One word to those who are prevented from coming to the Demonstration in Trafalgar Square on July 16, they may send a donation towards the expenses, as a contribution to the Equal Franchise campaign.

G. JEFFERY.

We are very glad that Dame Edith Lyttelton is again to attend the Assembly of the League of Nations, but we wish she had been appointed as full delegate.

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

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