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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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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 Oxford Liquor (Popular Control) Bill."

By MONICA WHATELY.

(Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Hythe).

There must be many people in this country who, while they consider that prohibition is not practicable, or who do not desire such a drastic reform, still realise the grave necessity for some reorganisation of the drink trade, some reform which will be both democratic and constructive.

This reform, I think my readers will agree, is to be found in the "Oxford Liquor (Popular Control) Bill"—a Bill which has already had its first reading in the House of Commons, and which is to be debated in the House of Lords this summer.

This Bill is designed to give people the right and liberty to choose between the only three possible systems of dealing with the sale of intoxicants.

- (1) No Change.
- (2) Reorganisation.
- (3) No Licence.

If a district votes for "No Change," the present system of private commercial competitive ownership will continue; those in the liquor trade will go on trying to increase the demand for spirits, cocktails, beer, etc., in order that their business turnover and profits may be maintained and increased.

If a district votes for "Reorganisation," the drink trade would be transferred to a disinterested Board, who would supply the public needs, but would have no financial inducement to increase the consumption of intoxicants or to try to stimulate public demand. The outstanding feature of this

option is getting rid of private interest, as has been done (though somewhat differently) at Carlisle.

"No Licence" means that no premises would be licensed for the sale of intoxicants.

Through these three options you have the essence of a truly democratic bill, for it does not seek to force any fresh legislation on the people, but gives to them the right to decide what reform, if any, shall operate in their district.

The first poll would take place three years after the passing of the Act, and subsequently every four years, *i.e.*, the seventh, eleventh, and fifteenth years after the passing of the Act.

COMPENSATION.

For those who would lose their employment when the breweries and licensed houses were taken over or closed, there would be generous compensation from a national Compensation Fund built up by:

- (1) Compulsory insurance premiums levied on the Trade, as is now done under the Balfour Act of 1904, and as was proposed in a recent Bill which the Trade promoted for Scotland.
- (2) The profits made in Reorganisation areas.
- (3) Money realised from the sale of surplus properties from among those taken over under reorganisation.

From this Fund a generous compensation will be paid to the directors, managers,

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houses, hotels, clubs, and grocers' shops with a licence, none of the compensation money will come from the pockets of the taxpayers.

The Oxford Bill differs from the Carlisle scheme in as much as it does not propose that a Government Department shall carry on the Drink Trade, but that it shall be managed by a National Board, which Parliament will set up-in the same way as the shipping on the Thames is managed by the Port of London Authority, and the Liverpool docks are owned and the shipping is under the Mersey Dock Board.

There would also be a Central Advisory Council (unpaid) on which consumers, local authorities, temperance bodies and private traders would be represented. Consideration would be given to local requirements and sentiment, by the setting up of local advisory committees of representatives (also unpaid) of the justices and of local authorities. They would advise the Board as to which licences were redundant and whether redistribution of licences are necessary, also whether certain drinking houses should be converted into cafés or eating houses.

We cannot shut our eyes to the fact that the drink Trade is definitely opposed to women in Parliament, for they look on all women as potential temperance advocates.

This is briefly an outline of the Bill-a Bill which can become an Act if the women of the country are sufficiently interested in this great reform. The extreme temperance reformers are against it because it does not. in their judgment, go far enough. They desire National prohibition. This Bill does not force prohibition on the whole country, whether it wants it or not, but enables, under the third option, an area to "go dry" if fiftyfive per cent. of the voters in that area are in favour of "No Licence."

More than this, if after trying "No Licence," they find it unsatisfactory in their area, they can vote for "Reorganisation" at a subsequent poll, and drink will be once more on sale, but it will be under reorganisation, for once given up, it is never proposed to return to private ownership.

Now a word to those who do not consider a reform of the drink trade necessary, who tell us people are becoming more temperate by choice, so do not need legislation.

Three hundred millions was spent last year on drink in this country, and when we

shareholders, employees of breweries, public realise that wages, on the whole, do not provide for more than the necessities of life, one cannot but see that money spent on drink means that someone has to go without those necessities—and alas! it is often the children. In 1925 we saw that the total drink bill was £315,200,000, while the milk bill was only £76,000,000. We spend four times as much on drink as we do on bread or on education, and had the money spent on drink during the last six years been spent on Housing, we should have solved that problem from one end of the country to the other, for we could have built four million houses at four hundred pounds each, with a further hundred pounds for furnishing. Instead of this we give the Brewers a yearly profit of about nineteen millions, at the expense of untold suffering and misery to many thousands of our fellow country men and women.

> During the last year of the war, when the full restrictions were in force controlling the hours at which drink might be sold-only 21,853 men and 7,222 women were sent to prison for drunkenness. Since then these figures have enormously increased as a result of the increased hours during which licensed houses are open, and we see in 1925 (the last year in which a volume of these statistics were published) the figures for convictions for drunkenness have reached 62,843 for men and 12,234 for women.

These are the figures given by the Licensing Statistics, and should show anyone with what a very serious problem we are faced. and how untrue are those statements made by the Trade and ignorant persons, that we are becoming a more temperate people.

Space will not allow me to elaborate further on all the crime, misery, sickness and death, due to the excessive drinking of alcohol, and to those who tell me they have a perfect right to decide for themselves what they shall eat or drink, I would say: "Do you know of men who commit suicide because of drinking tea, or who brawl because of coffee, or of girls who go wrong because they indulge in milk, or of mothers who pawn their children's boots to buy more soda water? Are we candid when we claim the same legal rights for the drinkers of milk and of gin, or of tea and of brandy?"

This is surely pre-eminently a woman's question, and one which should stir Catholic

(Continued on next page).

Notes and Comments.

Equal Franchise.

The Prime Minister's statement on Equal Franchise to the Unionist Women has delighted women of all parties. It was a great suffrage speech. "In my view there are one or two things we should all remember. Sex is no longer a disqualification. The principle was conceded in 1918. So it is not unfair to say that the onus lies on the opponents of an extension of the Franchise to say why the arbitrary age of 30 should remain." The Premier went on to speak of Sex Disqualification Removal Act, and asked opponents of Equal Franchise to remember that any woman—the Act does not say whether a "flapper or not"-can practise as a solicitor, barrister, or a doctor, or enter the Civil Service or Police, but unless over thirty, and possessing certain other qualifications, she cannot vote. Mr. Baldwin proceeded to ridicule the cry of votes for flappers, the figures had been quoted over and over again. The new voters would number some 5,000,000, nearly 2,000,000 of these are women over 30, who, owing to the peculiar nature of the existing election law cannot get on to the register; something like 1,750,000 are between the ages of twenty-five and thirty, and the remainder belong "to that unhappy age from 21 to 25." The Premier declared his belief "that a democracy is incomplete and lopsided until it is representative of the whole people, and that the responsibility rests alike on men and women." In fact, the whole of the speech, as we have said, shows the Premier to be a sound suffragist. None the less, the campaign must be continued till Equal Franchise is the law of the land. Elsewhere we speak of a great demonstration to be held in Trafalgar Square on July 16. We ask all our readers to be there. We want to see the Bill brought in. There is danger in delay.

We offer our very hearty congratulations to Miss Quinn for her magnificent protest against artificial birth control, when the question was raised at the recent Conference of Labour women at Huddersfield. Miss Quinn qualified artificial birth control as and help to stop the degrading of thousands the most reactionary measure on the agenda, of men and women, and increasing the huge a complete capitulation to capitalism; a profits of a few individuals.

* * * *

philosophy of cowardice, and a policy of despair. For ourselves we have always wondered at any feminists advocating a policy which, other considerations apart, is radically anti-feminist. Miss Quinn was supported by Councillor Mrs. Dooley, a mother of five children. Miss Quinn is a keen suffragist, who was imprisoned five times during the suffrage fight. We are glad to say that she is a member of St. Joan's S.P.A. The resolution, demanding the raising of the ban on giving information on birth control at maternity centres in receipt of public money, was carried by 581 votes to 74; but in an interview reported in the Catholic Herald, Miss Quinn points out that over 300 delegates abstained from voting, and whereas two years ago only fifteen delegates supported her, seventy-four did so on this occasion.

Lord Astor's new Bill to enable Peeresses in their own right to sit and vote in the House of Lords, is not exactly an Equality Bill, but has been framed to meet objections to former Bills which were defeated. The Bill gives power to the King to summon any English Peeress in her own right to take her seat in House of Lords. This meets the objection that in the Patents of Nobility held by some peeresses, a clause excluded them from the right to sit and vote in the House of Lords. The Bill, which comes up for its second reading on June 21, also qualifies Scottish and Irish Peeresses to vote and to be elected at elections of Peers of Scotland and Ireland, and if elected, to receive a Writ of Summons to Parliament. It seems that a Bill on these lines, alone, has a chance of success in the House of Lords.

We have heard with deep regret of the death of our member, Mrs. Brunlees, and of Mrs. Donovan (mother of our members, the Misses Donovan), for whom we ask the prayers of our readers.-R.I.P.

(Continued from previous page).

women to work for a reform which will unquestionably raise the status of woman,

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE,

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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Inequality in the League of Nations.

Feminists who stand for the equality of invented as a check to the promotion of the sexes, and whose representatives were women in the Secretariat. instrumental in getting the principle of equality inserted in the Covenant of the League of Nations, are beginning to ask when the Governments concerned are going to take the famous clause to heart. This clause lays down that: "All positions under or in connection with the League, including and women. Yet year after year half a dozen women attend the Assembly of the delegations, and only six included women These were reinforced later by Dr. Baumer, who accompanied the German delegation, but as technical adviser, not as a delegate.

The question is brought again to our notice by the Annual Report of the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations, to which St. Joan's S.P.A. is affiliated.

Disquieting rumours having reached the Council respecting the position of women in the Secretariat of the League, Mrs. Hoster undertook an enquiry on the Council's behalf, visiting Geneva for the purpose last August. As a result of that enquiry, Mrs. Hoster reports quite definitely that women are not the League, that a certain category B was that it is taken seriously by women.

In a resolution passed unanimously at the Annual Meeting last November, the Council complains of the reactionary attitude obtaining in the Secretariat, which frustrates the intention of Clause VII, which, as was generally understood, was intended to break down the prejudices which prevent women being the Secretariat, shall be open equally to men selected for high positions. Women are asking who is responsible for this attitude. Why, for instance, the services of Miss League, and that in the position of substitute Wilson, who did excellent work as Librarian, delegates only. This year 48 States sent were not retained, after the expiry of her seven years' contract? And will she be replaced by a man?

Mrs. Hoster states that in her opinion it would be of great advantage if women's societies in the more advanced countries would look seriously into this matter-that is. the position of women in the Secretariatand bring pressure to bear upon their Governments and upon the authorities of the Secretariat, with a view to securing fuller opportunities for women and opening to them equally with men the higher appointments.

In this, as in all other questions relating to the position of women, the authorities concerned will act only if sufficient pressure is brought to bear on them. Just as in this country we shall get political equality when enjoying equal opportunities with men where the Government realises, as it is beginning appointments to the higher categories are to do, that women are determined to get it. concerned. It has been stated openly by a The Seventh Clause of the Covenant will be woman who was at one time in the employ of taken seriously when Governments realise

Dame Millicent Fawcett Fête.

St. Joan's S.P.A. has promised to contribute towards the endowment of a Dame Millicent Fawcett Room at Crosby Hall, the International Hall of Residence for University Women. The presentation for the endowment of this room was presented to Dame Millicent on her eightieth birthday, at Crosby Hall, out of gratitude for the great work she has done for women, and two members of the Alliance were present.

Dame Millicent Fawcett's birthday was on June 11. We offer her our hearty congratulations and assure her of our deep gratitude for her life-long work in the cause for which the Alliance, and this paper, stand. It is especially fitting that Catholics should take some part in helping with the endowment of Crosby Hall, as Blessed Thomas More was the most illustrious of its many distinguished owners, and it now stands on the ground which was once his garden. Moreover the Hall has been founded "to the encouragement of learning and the promotion of friendship between the women of all nations," an object which would surely have appealed to Blessed Thomas More, who so encouraged a love of learning in his daughter, Margaret Roper. In order to collect the Alliance's contribution towards the endowment of the Room to perpetuate the memory of Dame Millicent Fawcett, a Garden Fête will be held at 15 Courtfield Road, S.W. 7, by kind permission of Miss Lechmere, on Saturday, July 2, from 3 to 6 p.m. That great artist, Jean Baptiste Toner, has kindly promised to give a pianoforte recital. Tickets (including tea), for non-members 3s. 6d., for members 2s. 6d., so as to enable as many of our members as possible to avail themselves of the opportunity of enjoying this musical feast. Please send at once for tickets to the Secretary, 55 Berners Street, W. 1, as the number will be limited.

JOHN STUART MILL CELEBRATION.

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance while unable, as the Alliance's representative was careful to state at the evening meeting, to endorse many of the opinions of John 60th anniversary of the occasion on which used in this propaganda.

this great lover of liberty moved in the House of Commons a Woman's Suffrage Amendment to the Representation of the People Bill. In the morning Miss Helen Douglas-Irvine, Chairman of the Alliance, was among the representatives of women's organisations who carried wreaths in procession along the Embankment to place them on the reformer's monument in Temple Gardens, where Dame Millicent Fawcett made a short speech. She quoted certain valiant words spoken by Mill: "Fear not the reproach of Quixotism or fanaticism, but after you have well weighed what you undertake and are convinced of its justice, go forward, even though you risk violent hostility from the very men through whose changed hearts your purpose will one day be accomplished." In the evening there was an enthusiastic meeting at Central Hall, at which Miss Barclay Carter spoke on behalf of the Alliance. The celebration was organised by the Women's Freedom League.

LOBBYING.

During the last month members of St. Joan's Alliance have taken part in "lobbying" Members of Parliament, sixteen M.P's. having been actually interviewed by members of the Alliance. In connection with the Equal Political Rights Campaign, "lobbying" parties are being arranged weekly, and the Alliance is anxious that more members from both London and country constituencies should join in this very effective work, and if members from the country are coming to London and would inform the Secretary, she would be pleased to make arrangements for them to go to the House to interview their Members. The Alliance's meetings at Hampstead Heath are now held at 7 p.m.

TRAFFIC IN WORN OUT HORSES.

On behalf of St. Joan's Alliance, Miss. Barclay Carter spoke in Hyde Park at a meeting of Miss Cole's Old Horse Traffic Committee for the campaign against the export of horses for butchery, on May 7. We offer our hearty congratulations to Miss Cole, and to the R.S.P.C.A., on the uncon-Stuart Mill, was yet glad to take part, on ditional withdrawal by Captain Gee of the the 20th of May, in the celebration of the allegations made by him respecting the film

International Notes.

La Française (Paris) announces that the French National Congress for Women's Suffrage will meet at Strasbourg during the Whitsuntide week-end. Among the organisers and the speakers are several prominent Catholics with whom St. Joan's is in close touch, including Madame Malaterre-Sellier, President of the Paris Women's Suffrage Society; Madame Dufays, President of the Moselle Group and the Federation of East France; Madame Marguerite Gemahling, who is speaking on the civic and social education of women; and Madame Vallé Genairon, President of the Federation of South East France.

The same paper records the resolutions passed on the 22nd and 23rd of April at the Congress of the Feminist Federation of South France. These protested against the law recently passed to organise the French nation in time of war, on the ground that women had had no part in making it, regretted the handicap under which Frenchwomen on the League of Nations' Commissions labour because they have no political rights in their own country, and affirmed the right of married women to do paid work, premising that family allowances, to be regarded as the wages of maternity, were desirable. The fourth resolution condemned unreservedly the system of regulated prostitution and demanded its abolition, and the fifth was in favour of the provision for young girls of scientific instruction on sexual and reproductive physiology. The sixth recommended that railway companies should provide special accommodation on trains for pregnant women and mothers travelling with infants, and should grant reduced fares to mothers and children in need of change of air. The seventh, eighth and ninth resolutions dealt with education. In particular they demanded that at least half the members of all school councils should be women. that the study of foreign languages should be encouraged in the interests of international peace, and that normal schools should be instituted to train women for social work.

This paper also reports that in Germany the Reichstag has passed and the Reichsrat

has approved a law on prophylactic measures to deal with venereal diseases, of which Article 6 enacts that any person who keeps a maison tolérée, or a similar business, shall be considered guilty of the crime of pandering, and shall therefore be liable to imprisonment for at least one month, or to a fine of from 150 marks to 6,000 marks, together with the loss of civic rights. This law, which follows on the closure of maisons tolérées in Berlin, Hamburg, Frankfurt, Leipzig, Bremen, and other places, will have effect from the 1st of October, 1927, after which date the system of maisons tolérées will thus be abolished in Germany.

The Bulletin of the International Council of Women reports that the forty-fifth anniversary of the day on which Marie Rodziewics, the well known Polish writer, began her literary work, was celebrated in Warsaw on the 13th of March. She was honoured especially for her efforts and accomplishment as a patriot.

The Women's Patriotic League of Nicaragua has petitioned the Spanish-American press to prevail upon the government of the United States to grant justice and liberty to Nicaragua.

The Congress of the International Institute of Agriculture, held in Rome during May, included a women's section which dealt with the rural organisations of women, the education of country housewives, and the general conditions of rural life as they affect women.

Catholic Press Day falls for all countries of the world on the feast of St. Peter and St. Paul. This day of intercession was instituted, for prayer, propaganda and alms for the good of the world's Catholic press, on the initiative of the international organisation called *Ora et Labora* which has its headquarters at Toledo. The Pope has granted a plenary indulgence to all the faithful who keep this day in accordance with its objects. Certainly, no better day could be found for helping the *Catholic Citizen*.

H. D. I.

We note that in preparation of the Semaine Sociale to be held at Nancy, a questionnaire relating to feminism has been prepared, and the speakers are to include theologians, social economists, lawyers and philosophers. We do not know whether any women are included in these ranks—we suspect not. It would be interesting to know whether it has occurred to the organisers of the Conference to apply to feminists themselves for the information they seek, and whether any women have been asked to speak on the occasion.

We were glad to read in the Universe of May 20, some excellent editorial comments on the question of married women's employment. How is it, the Universe asks, that in this discussion we hear of women doctors. lawyers, teachers, secretaries, clerks and the like, but nothing of the married washerwoman and charwoman, equally indispensable. "Really, one is led to protest, there ought not to be one law for the rich and another for the poor. Why should a woman of the professional classes be penalised against that which is allowed to a woman of the manual-labouring classes? The only proper persons to decide in such cases are the husband and wife, not meddlesome outsiders. Do none of these outsiders ever employ a charwoman?" A protest with which we are in hearty accord.

TRAFALGAR SQUARE DEMONSTRATION.

In spite of the Prime Minister's splendid suffrage speech to the Unionist women referred to elsewhere, we must not think that Equal Franchise is won yet, and that we can slacken our efforts. Now is the critical time, and it is imperative to show that the Public is behind the Prime Minister in his pledge to give votes to women at 21 and on the same terms as men, and to this end a mass demonstration organised by the E.P.R. will be held in *Trafalgar Square on Saturday*, *July* 16, at 5 p.m. Full particulars will be given later, meantime book the date and tell all your friends about it, for St. Joan's must help to fill the square.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

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

The last indoor meeting of the Branch before the summer holidays was held on May 2 at 13 Elizabeth Street, by kind invitation of our Chairman. The speaker, Miss Eileen Fletcher. is an under-thirty student of the School of Social Science, and her subject was "Housing." The committee were glad to see at this meeting several members who have not been able to attend for a very long time, and also to welcome two new ones introduced by Miss O'Callaghan. Miss Fletcher's address was much appreciated. Several members availed themselves of the invitation of the W.I.L. to hear Mrs. Pethick Lawrence speak on "Women of the East and West as Peace Bringers," on May 18. The committee hopes to arrange a picnic to Chester on June 25, and asks members to keep this date free. It is also hoped to hold an open-air meeting on Equal Franchise in the early summer. Particulars of both of these will be sent in due course. We regret to say that Mrs. Crawford will not be able to address us for the present, but hope that the Branch will have the pleasure of hearing her later on.

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TREASURER'S NOTE.

We wish to draw special attention to the Garden Fête on July 2, particulars of which will be found on another page. The proceeds of this event will be "St. Joan's" contribution towards the endowment of a Dame Millicent Fawcett room in Crosby Hall, Chelsea, the International Hall of Residence for University Women, as a tribute to Dame Millicent Fawcett on her eightieth birthday. Members of "St. Joan's" will be proud to join in paying honour to this revered leader in the Women's Suffrage movement for well nigh sixty years; and what could be more fitting than that it should take the form of contributing to a permanent memorial in the ancient home of our illustrious English martyr, Blessed Thomas More. It is earnestly hoped that every member in and around London will come to the Fête, where, besides helping so worthy a cause, they are sure to spend a delightful afternoon.

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.

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All Catholic women are eligible as Members, who approve the object and methods, and will pay a minimum annual subscription of is. 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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Classes will be held for explanation and discussion of the matter treated in the lectures.

Tickets for (Parties of 12 and over 7/6 each

Tickets 10 (Parties of 12 and over 7/6 each) from the Secretary, Rev. J. F. McNulty, St. Edmund's House, Cambridge.

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JULY 30th to AUGUST 6th.

Sunday, July 31st.—Annual Meeting, His Grace the Archbishop of Liverpool in the chair. During the Week—Lectures as follows:

REV. FR. PERQUY, O.P., President of the Belgian College for Christian Working Men, Four Lectures on **Social Questions in Belgium**.

REV. LEWIS WATT, S.J., B.Sc., Professor of Moral Philosophy at Heythrop College, Four Lectures on The State.

MISS M. D. LEYS, M.A., Tutor and Lecturer, Oxford University, Five Lectures on The Influence of the French Revolution on Social Thought.

Other arrangements to be announced later.

The fee for Board, Lodging, and Membership of the School is $\pounds 3/3/-$. Application should be made immediately, accompanied with a deposit of 10/-, which is not returnable. The fee without Board and Lodging is $\pounds 1/1-$.

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