

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.

On the Same Terms as Men.

By MARGUERITE FEDDEN.

A child, we are told, comes to the age of reason—so as to be able to distinguish right from wrong—about the age of seven. If a boy-child, he becomes a responsible citizen after fourteen years of education and experience, but if a girl-child—though girls develop more quickly than boys—she must wait for nearly a quarter of a century (namely 23 years) before she can vote—or for nine years after attaining her majority. Why this anomaly in the third decade of the twentieth century?

Political women—inside and outside of societies—have been wanting and hoping and striving for the abolition of this ridiculous and dishonouring state of affairs, trusting in the Prime Minister's solemn pledge. But when the King's Speech, described by Lord Haldane as "a jejune document," was read they were disappointed, and a wave of indignation swept over them—a wave which swept to Westminster, causing pertinent questions to be asked by members of all parties.

The absence of reference to Equal Franchise in the speech our King perforce must read, has raised a bitter feeling of resentment among Liberal and Labour suffragists, and acute criticism of their party by Conservative suffragists. There is a cryptic utterance in the Speech, as follows:

"Other important measures, as the time of the Session permits, will be introduced to your notice."

Does this mean the removal of franchise disabilities? If so, why not state the fact

in plain English?

Informed suffragists hardly need reminding that unless a Bill amending the franchise is passed before June 1 of this year, in the event of a general election taking place, as it possibly might before October 15, 1928, about five million women, who should be voters, will be precluded from going to the polling stations.

Since the passing of the Representation of the People (Economy Provisions) Act, 1926, only one register of electors is published annually, namely, on October 15 of each year. In future the qualifying period will be the three months preceding the 1st of June.

From June 1 to July 15 the lists will be prepared and will be open from the latter date to August 7 for inspection. Five million new voters could not be put on the register in a shorter time than six weeks; hence the urgent necessity of legislation before June 1.

There is no reason, however, why a simple franchise measure, giving votes to women at 21 and on the same terms as to men, should not be passed, and passed before June 1, if the Prime Minister does his duty; it should command widespread support and sympathy in the House of Commons, and could be put through in a couple of hours.

And now let us consider the women who would be enfranchised by such a measure.

Three million women under thirty would become voters—women who do useful work for the State as mothers, doctors, teachers,

nurses, civil servants, domestic workers, craftswomen and factory hands.

During the Great War most of the women's war work was done, and splendidly done, by women under thirty; they were ambulance drivers, nurses, V.A.D. members, orderlies, munition workers, hut and canteen workers, clerks in Government departments, and substitutes in innumerable instances for men—often working in the greatest danger from raids, mines, submarines, and under shell fire.

In the years between 21 and 30 some of the best and most arduous work is performed. The enthusiasm and idealism of early youth remain, but they are tempered by the common sense and experience of early maturity.

It is a poor service to the State to exclude from representation these daughters of the nation. It is an act of injustice to withhold from these girls the protection of the vote. It is unchivalrous not to give them the benefit of status and the token of citizenship.

Again, it is often illegal to prevent some of these women voting, for one of the most cherished principles of English justice is "No taxation without representation." Not only is it unjust, but absurd to class grown women—wage-earners—with infants, lunatics and idiots.

Take the University woman. However brilliant her degree she may not vote till 30, while her brother with a pass degree votes at 21.

The "Under Thirties" have many advocates and can fight their own battles. Let us turn to the women over 30 who are disfranchised; there are over two million of these.

Many were bridge builders in the old Constitutional agitation for the Suffrage, while some carried the torch in that page of English history which chronicles the Militant Movements' activities. There are many classes of women over 30 who are voteless.

First, the professional or industrial woman who is obliged to live in furnished rooms. Not having a few sticks of furniture, or perhaps unable to obtain an unfurnished room, she is disfranchised. A man lodger has the vote.

A wife living with her husband in furnished rooms is voteless, and this must affect many wives of ex-service men. A daughter living with her parents (or a sister with a brother) is disfranchised.

A son living with his parents is not disfranchised.

Under the service franchise a woman by reason of her employment qualifies as a voter by occupying rooms in her employer's premises, but not if the employer lives in the same building. This disqualifies many teachers, nurses, etc. It does not apply to men.

Domestic servants, however efficient and necessary for the welfare of the aged, the sick, and the harassed mother of a young family, are disqualified. The servant problem, like the poor, is always with us. It has been suggested that service would be made more attractive if servants had votes. People say, however, that servants are not sufficiently enlightened to vote, and this after 57 years of compulsory education. We know, nevertheless, that responsibility educates. It is said servants, as a class, do not want the vote, but as John Stuart Mill said: "It is a benefit to human beings to have their fetters removed, even if they do not desire to walk."

Male servants have the vote.

A woman (other than a University graduate) cannot vote in two constituencies at a General Election, while a man can vote in one constituency on a residential qualification and in another either by reason of occupation of business premises or as a University graduate.

A British-born woman married to an alien is disfranchised even when an occupier in her own right. The husband of a foreign woman, however, may vote.

The widow who lives with her son in a company-owned house, where the son's rent is deducted from his wage, is disqualified; this is often the case in mining areas.

Equal Franchise is the keystone in the arch of justice, it behoves the Premier, as chief servant of his Sovereign and the people, to do his clear duty and give facilities for the immediate introduction of a Bill to give votes to women at 21 and "on the same terms as men," a Bill which must pass the Commons and the Lords and receive the Royal Assent before June 1.

If he does not give this elementary grant of justice and fulfil his pledge he will see, as Belshazzar saw, the writing on the wall. "Thou art weighed in the balance and found wanting. Thy kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians."

Notes and Comments.

Equal Political Rights Campaign.

Meetings continue to be held in London and elsewhere to demand equal franchise for men and women. On February 17 the Women's Freedom League held a meeting at Hampstead Town Hall, when Mr. Joseph Clayton spoke on behalf of St. Joan's S.P.A. and begged the audience not to forget the heroic sacrifices made by so many women over twenty years ago, and to press forward their cause at this critical juncture.

As an outcome of the successful meeting at East Fulham, under the auspices of St. Joan's S.P.A., a deputation of his constituents was received by Colonel Vaughan Morgan, M.P., at the House of Commons on Feb. 28. The deputation was introduced by Councillor Miss H. A. Packer, who had given a delightful address at the Fulham meeting. Our member, Miss Butler-Bowdon, whom we have to thank for organising the meeting, stressed the urgency of passing an Equal Franchise Bill in time for the inclusion of women in the 1927 register. Colonel Vaughan Morgan would give no definite pledge, but said the deputation could count on his sympathetic support, and he would do his best to influence his party.

* * * *

Letter from Dom Gilbert Higgins, read at the Equal Franchise meeting at East Fulham:

"An engagement out of which I cannot wriggle keeps me in Hornsey, when all my warmest sympathies are calling me to Fulham. May your Meeting be a large one. It ought to be, for its object is a noble one—the striking off of another of the ignominious fetters which still bind and gall the women of this land. Every woman with sense enough to understand her inborn dignity as an empire maker and her inalienable rights as a citizen should rally round her champions to-night.

"Praying for the success of your endeavours."

The speakers at the meeting were: Mrs. Victor Duval, Councillor Miss H. A. Packer, Mr. J. Palmer, and Miss Gladys Waldron for the 'Under Thirties'; the chair being taken by Miss Butler-Bowdon.

Under the auspices of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, a Mass Meeting was held in Westminster on March 3, in the shadow, as one may say, of the House of Commons. We trust the atmosphere of that august House was infected by the enthusiasm of the women demanding justice so near by. The speakers were: Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Miss Bondfield, M.P., Lord Balfour of Burleigh, and Capt. Evans, M.P. The chair was taken by Miss Eleanor Rathbone, J.P., C.C., M.A. Our member, Miss Monica O'Connor, representing the 'Under Thirties,' had the honour of proposing a vote of thanks to the speakers.

* * * *

Deputation to Prime Minister.

As we go to Press we learn that the Prime Minister in receiving a Deputation from the Equal Political Rights Committee, said that he would make a statement before Easter. We hope that this means that the Government will introduce immediately a simple measure giving votes to women of 21 on the same terms as men. Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell, Hon. Sec. of our Liverpool Branch, represented St. Joan's, and spoke for the "under thirties," and pointed out the danger of allowing women to reach the age of thirty without any sense of political responsibility.

* * * *

We call the attention of our readers to the interesting series of lectures being organised by the Public Service Committee of the Catholic Women's League. The lecture on Catholics and the League of Nations, should be of special interest. His Eminence Cardinal Bourne will preside, the speakers being Princess Radziwill and Mr. John Eppstein. Remember, March 23 at the Cathedral Hall, 8 p.m. Mrs. Cecil Chesterton is to lecture on the Homeless Woman on March 17, in Sloane Gardens, 8 p.m.; and Miss Lilian Barker on My Work Among Girls, April 5, at 4 p.m., 39 Cadogan Gardens, S.W. 1.

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We urge all our members within reach of London, to come to the Annual Meeting on March 19.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE,

AND

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

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

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MRS. O'CONNOR.

MISS MARY WALL.

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance.

15th ANNUAL REPORT, 1926.

The year 1926, though not marked by so many actual victories as the preceding year, has certainly shown a renewed enthusiasm in the fight for equal suffrage and for equality in other fields. In our own Alliance we can gladly record greater enthusiasm and more general interest among the rank and file in our work, which we trust will be marked by yet greater activity during the coming year, in our Equal Franchise Campaign. Two Bills which figured in our resolutions last year have reached the Statute Book—the Catholic Relief Bill and the Legitimacy Bill. On the other hand Lord Astor's Bill to enable peeresses in their own right to take their seats in the House of Lords, was heavily defeated; the question of the nationality of married women was ignored by the Imperial Conference, in spite of every effort on the part of feminist societies; and the Lead Paint Bill discriminates against women. These are the chief Parliamentary losses and gains of the year. Among the latter, however, we must not forget to record that the number of women M.P's. has been increased by Miss Margaret Bondfield and Miss Susan Lawrence, who have been re-elected.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Fourteenth Annual Meeting of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance was held at St. Patrick's Club Room, Soho, on March

13, Councillor Mrs. V. M. Crawford in the chair.

The adoption of the Annual Report was moved by Miss K. Donovan and seconded by Miss Watts; the adoption of the Financial Statement was moved by Miss Demery and seconded by Mrs. Liveing.

The following resolutions were moved from the chair and carried unanimously:

1. EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS.—St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government, in accordance with the pledge given by the Prime Minister at the General Election that: "The Unionist Party is in favour of Equal Political Rights for men and women."

(a) *Equal Franchise.* To introduce and pass without delay, a Bill giving votes to women at the age of 21 and on the same terms as to men.

(b) *Women in the House of Lords.* To further legislation to enable Peeresses in their own right to sit and vote in the House of Lords.

2. EQUAL MORAL STANDARD.—

(a) *Solicitation Laws.* St. Joan's S.P.A., believing that the laws and their administration should uphold the Equal Moral Standard, asks the Government to appoint a Public Committee of Enquiry into the whole subject of the laws dealing with street solicitation.

They are further of the opinion that sections specially directed against "common prostitutes" should be repealed and an equal law be substituted applicable to all persons who annoy or molest others in the streets or public places.

(b) *State Regulation of Vice.* St. Joan's S.P.A. urges the Government to extend the Hong Kong and any other British Crown Colonies where the system of recognised brothels exists, the main recommendations of the first report of the Colonial Office Advisory Committee on Social Hygiene.

3. EQUAL PAY AND OPPORTUNITIES.—St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government and Local Authorities to establish among their employees a system of equal pay and opportunities for men and women, thus setting an example to other employers throughout the country.

(a) *Employment of Married Women.* Believing that women should have the right to decide for themselves whether or not they should engage in paid employment after marriage, St. Joan's S.P.A. demands the abolition of all regulations restricting such a right, whether issued by State or Local Authorities.

(b) *"Protective" Legislation.* St. Joan's S.P.A. stands for equality as between men and women in industrial legislation. It opposes all so-called "protective" legislation applied to women and not to men, such legislation tending to handicap women in earning their livelihood rather than to protect them. We believe that all such restrictions should be based on the type of work and not on the sex of the worker, and call upon the Government to apply this principle to the promised new Factories Bill.

4. NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN.—St. Joan's S.P.A. notes with satisfaction that an increasing number of countries make it possible for women to retain their own nationality on marriage, and urges the Government to recommend to the Forthcoming Imperial Conference, the adoption throughout the Empire of legislation to give effect to the resolution adopted by the House of

Commons on February 18, 1925, viz.: "that in the opinion of the House, a British woman shall not lose or be deemed to lose her nationality by the mere act of marriage with an alien, but that it should be open to her to make a declaration of alienage."

5. AGE OF MARRIAGE.—St. Joan's S.P.A. begs to draw the attention of the Government to the deplorable fact that 12 is still the legal age of marriage for girls, and urges immediate legislation to remedy this evil.
6. LEGITIMACY.—St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to introduce and pass without delay a bill to legitimate children on the subsequent marriage of their parents.
7. SEXUAL OFFENCES AGAINST YOUNG PERSONS.—St. Joan's S.P.A. welcomes the report of the Departmental Committee on Sexual Offences against Young Persons, and urges the Government to give legislative effect to its main recommendations at the earliest possible moment.
8. WOMEN POLICE.—St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to further legislation making it compulsory on Watch Committees and Standing Joint Committees to appoint a sufficient number of Women Police.
9. INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE.—St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to include a woman delegate in the British delegation to the International Labour Conference which is to consider the question of Emigration at Geneva in May.
10. ARTIFICIAL BIRTH CONTROL.—St. Joan's S.P.A. expresses its satisfaction at the defeat of the Local Authorities (Birth Control) Enabling Bill, introduced by Mr. Thurtle in the House of Commons, and calls upon the Members of the House of Lords to oppose any similar bill when introduced in that House.
11. CATHOLIC DISABILITIES.—St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to grant facilities for the passage into law of Mr. Dennis Herbert's "Roman Catholic Relief Bill."

EQUAL FRANCHISE CAMPAIGN.

The most striking feature of this year's work has been the persistent demand that the Government should fulfil the "Prime Minister's pledge that women shall vote on equal terms with men at the next election." Following upon mass meetings convened by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship and the Women's Freedom League, in both of which we co-operated. St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance held a meeting on the subject at Caxton Hall on April 29, with Councillor Mrs. Crawford in the chair. The meeting passed unanimously the following resolutions, moved by His Lordship the Bishop of Pella, and seconded by Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P.: "This meeting, supported by thirty organisations, calls upon the Government to introduce and pass without delay a Bill giving votes to women at the age of 21, and on the same terms as to men."

Dame Millicent Fawcett, G.B.E., Sir Robert Newman, M.P., and Miss Barclay Carter, Lic-ès-L., one of our 'under thirties,' spoke in support of the resolution, and Mrs. Liveing and Miss Monica O'Connor (another of our 'under thirties'), moved and seconded a vote of thanks to the speakers. Letters in support of equal franchise were read from His Grace the Archbishop of Birmingham, Dom Gilbert Higgins, C.R.L., Lord Morris, Viscountess Astor, Father Philip Fletcher, Father Filmer, Father Conrad, O.S.F.C., Viscountess Rhondda, Mrs. Wintringham, and from the following Catholic M.P's.: Sir Nicholas Grattan Doyle, Messrs. Arthur Hope, J. Sullivan, M. Connolly, Hugh Murnin, and Major P. B. Malone.

All these Equal Franchise Meetings were leading up to the great procession on July 3, which culminated in a demonstration in Hyde Park. Many Societies took part, and St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance had a very fine contingent, headed by our founder, Miss Gabrielle Jeffery, carrying our colours and marching to the gay strains of the Dockhead Kilted Pipers' Band. Besides our new name banner and our beautiful banner of St. Joan, our first banner, "The Catholic Women's Suffrage Society," was also carried in the procession. Our Liverpool Branch was represented by the Chairman, Mrs. Murphy, and Miss Parnell, the Hon. Secretary. Our speakers in Hyde Park were

Father Arthur Day, S.J., Miss Monica Whately, Mr. Joseph Clayton, and three 'under thirties,' Miss Barclay Carter, Miss Monica O'Connor and Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell, B.A., Hon. Secretary of our Liverpool Branch. Miss Eleanor FitzGerald was in the chair. Resolutions on Equal Franchise and Peeresses in the House of Lords were carried unanimously. The Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee, on which we are actively represented, and which organised the procession so successfully, decided to remain in being and to conduct an intensive campaign for Equal Franchise. In this connection, work in the autumn chiefly consisted of constituency meetings followed by a deputation to the local Member of Parliament. Many of our speakers were asked to help at these meetings, and on December 6, St. Joan's S.P.A. organised a meeting in the St. Marylebone constituency, the speakers being Miss Adeline Bourne, Actresses' Franchise League; Miss Octavia Lewin, M.D., Women's Freedom League; Miss Nancy Lightman, National Union of Women Teachers; Miss Helen Ward, National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship; and Miss Griffin as an 'under thirty.' The chair was taken by Councillor Mrs. Crawford. The meeting passed unanimously a resolution demanding an immediate Government measure giving votes to women at 21 on the same terms as men. As an outcome of the meeting, Sir Douglas Hogg, the Attorney General and Member for St. Marylebone, received a deputation of his constituents who were present at the meeting, which was introduced by Councillor Mrs. V. M. Crawford. He informed the deputation that he was unable to make any statement, being a Member of the Cabinet which had the matter under consideration; nevertheless, the deputation was able to impress its views on Sir Douglas Hogg.

PARIS CONGRESS.

The Tenth Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance was held in Paris during the first week in June. Great interest was displayed in the Congress by the feminist societies in this country. St. Joan's S.P.A. felt great pleasure in being able to take part as a full auxiliary of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance in the deliberations of women from all parts of the world.

In preparation for the Congress, a meeting was held at the Caxton Hall on February 25 to interest our members in the Congress and to collect funds for our contribution towards its expenses. The chief speakers were Madame Malaterre Sellier, President of the Suffrage Society of Paris, and a co-religionist, and Mrs. Corbett Ashby, President of the I.W.S.A. The other speakers were Miss Harley Bacon and Miss Kathleen FitzGerald, the chair being taken by Councillor Mrs. V. M. Crawford. The amount raised at the meeting was £10. Mrs. Crawford was appointed as our delegate to the Congress, and Miss Barry as alternate delegate. Other members of the Executive attending the Congress were Miss Douglas Irvine, our Press Secretary, and Miss L. de Alberti, who attended as temporary Editor of *Jus Suffragii*, and was appointed to take the Minutes of the Congress. Miss C. M. Gordon, another of our members, was responsible for the press work of the Congress. On the evening of June 1, St. Joan's S.P.A. gave an "At Home" for Catholic delegates attending the Congress, Mrs. Corbett Ashby kindly lending her salon at the Hotel Lutetia for the purpose. Thirteen countries were represented, and among the guests were Princess de Croÿ, Princess Radziwill, of the Secretariat of the League of Nations, Mme. Malaterre Sellier, Frau Rudel Zeynek, a deputy of the Austrian Chamber, Mme. Cerix-Nisot, Doctor of Canon Law, and many other distinguished women. On Sunday, June 6, Catholic delegates attended Mass at St. Sulpice. In the evening of the same day Princess de Croÿ, kindly received Catholic delegates at the Lyceum Club.

On June 15, St. Joan's S.P.A. gave a dinner at the Rendez-Vous to welcome Councillor Mrs. Crawford on her return from Paris. Most interesting reports of the Congress, and of the receptions at the Elysée, Senate, and Hotel de Ville, were given by Mrs. Crawford and Miss Douglas Irvine.

On July 2, a joint reception was given by the three British Auxiliaries to the delegates of the Paris Congress, at which Mrs. Crawford spoke.

PEACE PILGRIMAGE.

St. Joan's S.P.A. supported the Peace Pilgrimage organised by the Women's In-

ternational League in the early part of the year, and which converged on London from various parts of the country on June 15, ending by a demonstration in Hyde Park. St. Joan's S.P.A. was asked to marshal the contingent of pilgrims which marched to Hyde Park from St. John's Wood. A contingent of members walked with this section behind our new banner, "St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance," which Miss Gladys Hynes kindly designed and painted for us. Miss Barclay Carter was one of the speakers in Hyde Park, and Mrs. Liveing addressed various meetings beforehand.

OTHER MEETINGS, ETC.

Meetings to explain the qualifications necessary to obtain *Widows' Pensions* were addressed by Mrs. Liveing at St. Aloysius' Mothers' Meeting, on February 8, and at the Mothers' Guild, Marylebone Presbyterian Church.

On June 27, Miss Gorry kindly gave an "At Home" at 37 Woburn Square, to enable members to meet Miss Moclair, recently called to the Bar, to whom we offer our congratulations.

At the Dinner organised by the Women's Freedom League to celebrate the silver wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Miss Fedden expressed the gratitude of Catholic Women Suffragists for their magnificent work on behalf of the emancipation of women.

A most successful Dinner was held at the Rendezvous Restaurant on September 28, to welcome Miss Marguerite Fedden on her return from South Africa, where, during a stay of four months she had done some fine work for the cause of Women's Franchise and in making St. Joan's Alliance more widely known. Miss Fedden, in a most interesting speech, outlined the present political position in South Africa, and urged the need for a strong Women's Franchise Campaign in that country. Although on a private visit, Miss Fedden found time to address many meetings, which were enthusiastic and well attended; these included one which was given in the Concert Hall at La Rochelle at the invitation of Father Peron, the parish priest, who has since become an Associate Member of the Alliance. A vote of thanks to Miss Fedden was moved by Mrs. C. J. Mathew, L.C.C., J.P., and seconded by Miss Moclair.

The Alliance was represented at the Annual Dinner of The Catholic Citizens' Parliament Dinner, when Miss Eleanor Fitzgerald spoke on our behalf.

At the request of Canon Dunford, Miss Fedden spoke to the St. Patrick's Girls' Club on the "Dignity of Woman." Miss Barry and Miss Fedden represented St. Joan's at the lunch given by the British Commonwealth League to the representative of the Bermuda Suffrage Society.

CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER SOCIETIES.

St. Joan's S.P.A. was represented by Councillor Mrs. Crawford at the Sixth Democratic International Peace Congress held at Bierville in August. Mrs. Crawford also represented the Alliance at the Annual Conference of the National Council of Women held in London, and spoke against the resolution dealing with girl mothers in workhouses and the possibility of treating them as mental defectives.

The Alliance sent delegates to two Conferences organised by the British Commonwealth League, one on *Migration* in June and the other in the autumn to discuss certain questions concerning women which the feminist societies desired to bring to the attention of the *Imperial Conference*. We were also represented at the Conference on the *Women Police Bill* convened by the Six Point Group, and at that on the duties of Women Police convened by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship. Delegates from the Alliance were also sent to the Conference on the *Factories Bill* called by the N.U.S.E.C.; to the Conference on the *Seventh Assembly of the League of Nations* convened by the League of Nations Union, and to that on the *Solicitation Laws* convened by the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene.

At the Consultative Committee of Women's Organisations, Dr. Delia Moclair spoke on our behalf against the resolution in favour of information on artificial *Birth Control* being given at rate aided Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, and also at the Conference for the same subject convened by the N.U.S.E.C.

Mrs. Smiley, M.A., represented us on the deputation to the L.C.C. Education Committee to protest against the dismissal of

married women teachers, the deputation being organised by the Six Point Group; a representative was also sent on a deputation to Miss Susan Lawrence before the By-election at East Ham, to discuss *Restrictive Legislation* on women's work.

REPRESENTATIVES ON COMMITTEES

Miss Hynes is our representative on the National Council of Women's Committee on Playing Fields and Recreation; Miss Fedden on the Industrial Committee; Mrs. Crawford on the Rescue and Preventive; Miss Barry on the Parliamentary and Legislative; Miss Harley Bacon represents the Alliance on the Women's Advisory Council of the League of Nations' Union, and the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations; Miss Brandt on the Catholic Citizens' Parliament; Miss Barry and Miss Hynes on the Equal Political Rights Committee.

LETTERS AND RESOLUTIONS.

Many letters and resolutions were sent during the year to Government departments and the League of Nations Secretariat dealing with various points on our programme.

CATHOLIC CITIZEN.

When our paper made its first appearance in 1915, a Catholic opponent prophesied that there would never be a second number. It has, however, weathered the battle and the breeze for twelve years. Like all propaganda papers it is not self-supporting, in spite of the generosity of our contributors, and we earnestly ask our members to obtain new subscribers. The paper is a great asset to the Society, and carries our name into many countries, it is exchanged with a large number of foreign feminist publications and with several Catholic papers.

PRESS WORK.

The press work of the Alliance suffered a severe loss on May 9 by the death of Miss Isabel Willis, who had filled the post of Hon. Press Secretary for the last ten years. She died in harness at the age of 82.—R.I.P. Earlier in the year, she had carried on a correspondence in *Time and Tide* against "The 'New Feminism' of the N.U.S.E.C.," and their advocacy of artificial Birth Control. It is notable that her last letter, appearing in the *Catholic Times* on April

30, a few days before her death, was in defence of one of the main principles of our movement. We quote the last sentence: "Not all the virtue of the most virtuous women will be sufficient to purify society until the stigma that marks the immoral woman shall be marked with equal clearness on the immoral man."

At the end of May we were fortunate in securing the able services of so experienced a writer as Miss Helen Douglas Irvine, M.A., who kindly consented to act as Hon. Press Secretary. She began her office by attending the Paris Congress, where she did invaluable work for the Alliance. Articles by her on "Women and the Vote," and "Catholic Women and Politics," have been published in the *Catholic Times*; in this paper also appeared a valuable article by Mrs. Crawford, being a brief sketch of the foundation and work of the Alliance. We wish to express our gratitude to the *Catholic Herald*, *Catholic Times* and *Universe*, for publishing frequent reports of our activities.

FOREIGN VISITORS.

We have had the pleasure of welcoming at our Office, Miss Jenner from S. Africa; Miss Günther of the International Council of Women, Germany; Miss Baltusen, Madame Mulder van der Graf de Bruijn, and Dr. van de Pijl from Holland; Miss Alice Park, California; Miss Eleanor Calnan, U.S.A., and Fraulein Esser from Breslau.

COMMITTEE CHANGES.

We received with regret the resignation from committee of Miss Monica Whately, one of the original members of the Society. Miss Helen Douglas Irvine and Miss Sheila Hynes were elected at the Annual Meeting. Another vacancy occurred owing to the deeply regretted death of Miss Willis. Miss E. Butler-Bowdon was co-opted as Assistant Hon. Treasurer in her place.

We have to offer our cordial thanks to all who have given personal service, money or gifts, to the Alliance; to our speakers and paper sellers, our banner bearers, and all those who contributed to the success of the procession. To Miss Connolly, of the "Bureau of Ways and Means," who has saved us much expense by generously multi-graphing many circulars and letters; to Miss Mary Wall for her help in the Office during

the Paris Congress, and for her generous service in giving character delineations at Bazaars, etc., by which a good sum has been contributed to our funds; to Miss Franklin and Mrs. Liveing for work on the Press Book; to Miss Gladys Hynes for kindly designing and painting our new banner; to Miss Gorry for calling daily for letters during the holidays, and for her help with refreshments at the Annual Meeting; to Miss Sheila Hynes, Mrs. Liveing and Miss Monica O'Connor, for office help; and last, but not least, to Miss Butler-Bowdon for two or three days' regular weekly work in the Office.

We offer our congratulations to Miss N. F. Atkinson, who has entered the Carmelites; to Miss O. Watson, who has entered the Order of the Good Shepherd; and to Dr. Delia Moclair and Miss Cruttwell, who have married during the year.

BAZAAR AND JUMBLE SALE.

St. Joan's S.P.A. had a Stall, as usual, at the Green, White and Gold Fair, organised by the Women's Freedom League; and held a Jumble Sale at St. Patrick's Schools, the proceeds of the Stall and Sale amounted to £28 19s. 3d.

Misses Barry, Fedden, Gadsby, Gorry and Moclair, hired a barrow in Summerstown Market twice during February and did a brisk sale, which swelled the funds of the Alliance—an adventure worthy of the good old Suffrage days.

OBITUARY.

St. Joan's S.P.A. suffered a great loss by the death of Miss Willis, to whom reference has been made above. We have also to record with regret the death of our members, Mrs. Prichard and Mrs. Head, with whose long and painful illness we felt deep sympathy; also Canon Magill, who had been a regular subscriber to the *Catholic Citizen* from its foundation, and of Mother Augustine, F.C.J., another friend of the Alliance.—R.I.P.

We have decided to have an ANNUAL MASS offered for the deceased members, associates and benefactors of the Alliance. The first Mass was offered for this intention at St. Patrick's, Soho, on the first Sunday of November.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

The year under review has been one of great activity for the Branch. We set out at the beginning of 1926 to make our presence felt in the city, and I think we may truthfully say that we have largely succeeded in our efforts. At the Equal Political Rights Meeting last March, organised by the Women Citizens' Association and addressed by Lady Rhondda, we were recognised as being the only other purely suffrage society in the city, and were accordingly invited to co-operate in a larger measure than any other society. We provided many of the stewards, besides being the only society directly represented by a speaker, and received a good advertisement from Miss Rathbone's appeal to the Catholic women to join St. Joan's. A visit to the Archbishop of Liverpool later in the year to obtain his patronage for the Peacemakers' Pilgrimage, resulted in a letter from him in which he encouraged us to fight for our rights, and said that he "always had a kindly feeling towards us." In connection with the Peacemakers' Pilgrimage the Branch did its best to rouse the Catholic community by distributing handbills outside many of the churches, etc., and though our efforts met with little success, they were much appreciated by our fellow Peacemakers. On the day of the Liverpool Demonstration, Mrs. Parnell kindly arranged for a Mass for Peace to be offered at the Pro-Cathedral, and had also the charge of preparing Exchange Flags for the great mass meeting held there. After this meeting a contingent of our members proudly marched behind our own banner, especially made for the occasion by Mrs. Murphy and Miss Jervis, and accompanied the pilgrims as far as Widnes. After the summer holidays several of the members assisted Miss Rathbone in her gallant fight in the municipal elections. Latterly the Branch has been endeavouring to raise money for the proposed new Hospital for Women, in common with most of the other women's societies. With this object in view, members have sold cards of 'bricks' which have realised £4 5s., and a Jumble Sale has been held which brought in enough money to enable the Branch to donate £10 in all to the Hospital Fund.

In addition to these activities we have held SIX ORDINARY MEETINGS. The first

was a very successful public meeting addressed by Miss Neilans, on "Laws Dealing with Street Solicitation"; the next was also a public one, addressed by Mrs. Corbett Ashby, on "The Forthcoming Paris Congress." As a result of the collection we were able to present Mrs. Corbett Ashby with a cheque for £3 3s. towards the expenses of the Congress. Our third meeting took the form of a social. During the interval the Hon. Secretary gave a short address on "The Peacemakers' Pilgrimage," which was then about to begin. After the summer holidays we again united in a social meeting, when we had the pleasure of hearing Miss Constance Richards, M.Sc., appeal for funds for a new hospital for women. The next meeting was addressed by Mgr. George on "The Catholic Party" in the Liverpool City Council. Afterwards he listened sympathetically to our criticisms of the party from the feminist point of view. The last ordinary meeting took the form of a discussion on Equal Franchise, opened by Miss Hall, B.Sc., followed by Miss Johnstone.

During the course of the year RESOLUTIONS on the following subjects have been sent to the proper quarters: Equal Franchise, The Solicitation Laws, Women Police, Equal Pay and Opportunity in the Civil Service, Employment of Married Women, Artificial Birth Control.

Three other points deserve mention that do not come under any of the previous headings. The first is an afternoon of Recollection at the Cenacle in June. The next is the fact that the Branch was officially represented by its Chairman and Secretary at the great Equal Political Rights Procession and Demonstration in Hyde Park on July 3. Lastly, two members of committee went to the Catholic Congress at Manchester at the expense of the Branch to sell the *Catholic Citizen* and to attend some of the meetings of interest to the Alliance.

The Committee has met eleven times during the year, and is certainly to be congratulated on the regularity of its attendance. Miss Sevenoaks (Chairman) and Mrs. Broad (Paper Secretary) sent in their resignations, which were accepted with regret, and we would like to take this opportunity of thanking them both for their hard work and generosity in the service of the Alliance.

While from many points of view 1926 has been a year of success, there are two

points on which the Committee feel dissatisfied. We should like to see a larger attendance at our meetings and a greatly increased membership. The Branch should strive at least to double its membership in 1927 in order to tackle adequately the enormous work that lies before it in Liverpool, and in order to support the national and international activities of the Alliance as a whole.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

It is a pleasure to change from a note of pessimism in last year's report to one of optimism this year. With the quickening of interest and enthusiasm already recorded, there has been a corresponding brightening of the financial outlook. During 1926 our receipts have been £50 more than in the preceding year, but this has been due not so much to increased individual subscriptions (which is the most economical and equitable way of meeting our responsibilities) but by the strenuous endeavours of our Hon. Secretary and her helpers in various sales throughout the year, and by the efforts of our Assistant Hon. Treasurer, Miss Butler-Bowdon. We were not, however, able to balance our accounts, which were closed with a debt of £10 on the General Fund and £15 on the *Catholic Citizen*.

Two hopeful and important events financially must be noted. The first was the formation last June of a band of Collectors, each of whom guarantees to bring in, by whatever means she prefers, 25s. quarterly towards the office rent. The following members have undertaken to be collectors: Miss Bain, Miss E. Butler-Bowdon, Miss K. Donovan, Miss E. FitzGerald, Miss Gorry, Miss Havers, Miss Douglas Irvine and Miss Monica O'Connor. Four more collectors are needed to complete the necessary £60 per annum. The second event was the formation in October of a Finance Sub-Committee. This Committee consists of twelve members who have set to work with such energy and enthusiasm as to fill one with hope of great developments in the coming year.

To sum up the year's position: The Alliance has returned with renewed vigour to its first object, the attainment of Equal Franchise. The campaign must be pursued with ever-increasing intensity until the day is won. To this end money and more

money is needed, and members are asked to search their hearts and their pockets in earnest and decide to what extent they can swell the war chest for our Equal Franchise Campaign.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS.

February 1 to February 28.

	£	s.	d.
Atkinson, Misses M. and R.	...	2	6
de Bivort, Mme.	...	5	7
Bowden, Mrs.	...	2	6
Brandt, Miss	...	6	6
Branston, Miss	...	2	6
Burman, Mrs.	...	2	6
Crespi, Signora	...	7	6
Crosse, Miss	...	2	6
Demery, Miss	...	5	0
Douglas Irvine, Miss H.	...	5	0
Filmer, Revd. J. H.	...	7	6
FitzGerald, Miss K.	...	2	6
Gordon, Mrs. and Miss	...	5	0
Hanlon, Misses M. and F.	...	5	0
Hughes, Mrs. A. J.	...	2	6
Hurst, Dr. and Mrs.	...	7	6
Johnston, P., Esq.	...	2	6
Lambert, Miss C.	...	2	0
McCormick, Miss	...	3	0
Monk, Very Rev. Canon	...	2	0
Morice, Dr. Margaret	...	7	6
O'Connor, Mrs.	...	3	6
O'Donnell, Mrs.	...	7	6
Olsen, Miss	...	2	6
Orbell, Miss	...	7	6
Rourke, Mrs.	...	2	6
Roberts, Miss	...	2	6
Sharples, Miss	...	2	6
Shorto, Mrs.	...	2	6
Snow, Mrs.	...	2	6
Wadham, Miss	...	2	0
Wahid, Miss	...	2	0
Walker, Miss M. K. E.	...	1	6
Wall, Miss	...	2	6
Wall, per Miss	...	9	0
Welch, Miss J. R. V.	...	2	6
Willis, Mrs.	...	2	6
Minimum Annual Subscriptions	...	9	0

£7 13 7

TREASURER'S NOTE.

It would be a very great help if all members who have not yet paid their annual subscriptions would send them in not later than March 25. The quarter's rent will then be due, and while the Equal Franchise Campaign is growing apace, expenses are likewise mounting up. Our work must not be crippled at this critical time for lack of funds.

The Whist Drive on February 24 provided an enjoyable evening's entertainment, and resulted in a profit of nearly £2 to the Alliance.

G. JEFFERY.

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