

WOMEN'S SERVICE  
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NOT TO BE TAKEN AWAY

THE  
**Catholic Citizen**

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

Vol. XVI, No. 10.

15th NOVEMBER, 1930.

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.

### For St. Joan.

Many are the books written round St. Joan of Arc; many more will be written, for none can weary of the wonderful tale. In this latest work, "For St. Joan of Arc,"\* nine sons of France do homage to the Holy Maid; priest, soldier, lawyer, writer, each one sees her from a different angle. The soldier, the late Marshal Foch, speaks of her as a strategist. She had fought for, and won, the freedom of the people by means of the people, showing all the powers of a great commander at every crisis of the fight. For lessons of strategy and tactics men have come to the banks of the Meuse, and many an instructor weary with lengthy argument and without his answer has turned to show his pupils the spire of Domremy rising in the valley "like a lighthouse flashing out the astonishing message of Joan, how to make ready for action and how to go through with it, and how in the end to make the cause of justice win, giving to it both body and soul, holding nothing back." The Commander of Armies, who rescued the fair land of France, thereby witnessing to her Heaven-sent mission, that is how a soldier of France sees St. Joan.

And yet, as Louis Bertrand reminds us, "much more important to her was the salvation of her soul than the safety of the Kingdom of France. She carried out her mission with no other aim than to save her soul. She loved the kingdom of the lilies, but her soul aspired

\* For Joan of Arc. An Act of Homage from Marshal Foch and eight other Members of the French Academy. Sheed & Ward, 7s. 6d. net.

more ardently to the Kingdom of Heaven."

A son of Lorraine, M. Bertrand, portrays the simple girl of Domremy, and traces the possible influences of environment on the Maid; if a feeling of breadth of all kinds had not been congenital to her, she might be said to have learnt her breadth of vision on the heights of Chenu Wood. The shepherdess of legend, spinning amid her sheep, is to M. Bertrand a poetic fancy created after the rehabilitation; and too much has been made, he finds, of springs, trees and fairies in Joan's life: no naturalistic tendencies have been found in her. She took refuge in the woods or in church because she wanted to be alone with her voices, with the messengers of God—to get as near to God as possible. He writes simply, for Joan of Arc is not a literary subject. A word from Joan's mouth, he says, "taken down by a court clerk, makes the most beautiful phrases seem vain and pretentious." He sees her symbolised by the heraldic figure, afterwards the blazon of the gods: between lilies, a naked sword pointing to heaven. She has the simplicity of great, absolute and abstract ideas.

M. Georges Goyau writes of the Maid's mission, and, with the court poet, Alan Chartier, sees her 'not only the glory of France, but the glory of all Christendom,' since in the opinion of the time a large part of the sickness of Christendom was due to the Franco-English wars.

M. Lavedan writes of her connection with Orleans. Her life is a magnificent triptych: Reims with the consecration; Rouen with the

martyrdom; but Orleans, the delivery and victory, in the centre. The Maid cannot be named without Orleans.

M. Louis Madelin takes us to Reims; Maître Henri-Robert sums up the trial (not a trial but a murder, he says), and gives a picture of Joan fearlessly meeting her judges, baffling their learning and cunning with her direct replies. She appealed to the Pope in Rome. He was too far away, Cauchon told her. Asked whether she trusted the Church's decision: "I put my trust in God who sent me, in Our Lady, in all the Saints in Heaven. And it is my opinion that God and the Church are one, and there is no problem. Why do you find any difficulty there?"

Offered, at last, an advocate to defend her: "For your warning as to my welfare and the Faith I thank you and the whole court as well. As to the advice which you offer me, I thank you for it too, but I have no intention of relinquishing the advocacy of Our Lord."

"Do you then submit yourself to the Church of God?"

"Yes, I submit myself, but God first."

They cast her body to the flames. "We are lost! We have burnt a Saint," cried the King of England's councillor.

To Monseigneur Baudrillart is left the task of describing the Saint. Her sanctity was recognised by some in her own day, but later the Saint had been overshadowed by the national heroine. Alan Chartier hailed her "as a messenger of God"; Christine de Pisa rejoiced in "the maid ordained by God, into whom the Holy Spirit poured his grace." The French clerk in the Court of Martin V in Rome records in his *Bréviaire historique* "a portentous event, of great import, unheard of and without its like since the beginning of the world," the work of a young girl who accomplished "actions more divine than human. . . ." The wise Bishop of Embrun, Jacques Gêlu, does not hesitate to declare that "Joan represents the Divine Majesty."

But at the close of the nineteenth century Cardinal Parrochi found it possible to say to Monseigneur Touchet, the Promoter of Joan's Cause: "I must confess it, here in Rome this question of Joan's sanctity causes astonishment to many. This saint on horseback, in helmet and armour, and with a voice that called to battle, upsets certain ideas, just as once she upset the English ranks."

But M. Gabriel Hanotaux, in his Epilogue, thinks of her as a peacemaker; she shed no

blood, and proclaimed her desire to make peace, if England would do justice.

Monseigneur Baudrillart shows the many difficulties which blocked the way to the triumph of St. Joan, but not one objection was raised against her teachings, in spite of the desperate efforts of her judges to condemn her as a heretic and rebel against the Church. The question of her submission to the Church was the pivot on which the trial turned. The problem of the right to resist ecclesiastical authority in the name of a conscience enlightened by private revelation troubles many minds even in our day, the Monseigneur tells us, but the judges of the rehabilitation trial settled the question in the light of "sound theology, theology too little known." By the pen of the Dominican, Jean Brehal, inquisitor of France, they acknowledged that the human conscience has "not merely the liberty, but the duty to obey such a revelation. It suffices that the revelations contain nothing contrary to Catholic doctrine or unworthy of true wisdom. The soul thus favoured, after being sufficiently enlightened, is bound to give them the assent of Faith."

We hear St. Joan's last cry: "My Voices have not deceived me. My Voices were from God. Jesus! Jesus!"

It was on May 16th, 1920, that "Saint" Joan passed through the portals of St. Peter's. . . . "We declare that the blessed Joan of Arc is a saint, and we inscribe her name in the list of the saints. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, Amen."

A shout of joy went up from Christendom.

*The Woman Engineer* (September-October) gives an account of the Annual Conference held at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford. Lady Moir's presidential address deals with the advance made by women in this new profession; the achievements of women in this and other spheres hitherto only open to men give promise for the future.

\* \* \* \*

The Annual Meeting of the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations, to which St. Joan's S.P.A. is affiliated, will be held on December 2nd, at 27 Marsham St., Westminster, at 3 p.m.

## Notes and Comments.

We urge all our members and readers to come to the meeting at Kensington Town Hall, Friday, Nov. 21st, at 8 p.m., when the appeal will be launched for a gift from England, as an amende honorable in honour of the Quincentenary of the martyrdom of St. Joan of Arc. His Eminence Cardinal Bourne will preside, and the speakers will be: Sir Johnston Forbes-Robertson, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Dr. Letitia Fairfield, C.B.E., Miss E. Picton Turbervill, M.P., and others.

Mr. Leon M. Lion will recite the poem of Mr. Humbert Wolfe on St. Joan of Arc.

The 21st of November was chosen because St. Joan was delivered to the English on that day. We are asked to say that collecting cards (5s.) are now ready, and can be had from Miss Barry at 55 Berners St., W.1.

\* \* \* \*

St. Joan's S.P.A. has sent the following resolution for the Agenda of the Conference on Women's Unemployment, convened by the Women's Freedom League:

"The Conference urges that the Ministry of Agriculture Land Settlement Scheme shall provide adequate access to the land for women, and proper facilities for their training on both the indoor and outdoor sides of farm life."

\* \* \* \*

In connection with our article "The Subjection of Women," which appeared in our last issue, we may say that there is no definition of the Church laying down the essential subordination of woman to man. The Revd. Professor, who put this view forward, says that this is one of those things which are *de fide*, but not defined. We are glad to say that other theologians have written to say that they do not agree with the Professor, though as one says, the recognition of the essential equality of woman with man, has been of slow growth in the Church, just as it has in the World.

We omitted to mention that our quotations from St. Thomas Aquinas were taken from the translation of the Summa by the Dominican Fathers of the English Province (Burns, Oates & Washbourne). This should settle the accuracy of the translation which one or two people have questioned.

Among the appreciations we have received two are from nuns, who say they are with

us, and that the Professor must have been thinking of the Old Law.

The Alliance was represented by their Chairman, Miss C. M. Gordon, on a deputation to Lady Squires, the first woman M.P. in Newfoundland, who has come to England with her husband, Sir Richard Squires, Prime Minister of Newfoundland. The Deputation was organized by the Six Point Group, and dealt chiefly with the Equal Rights Treaty and the Nationality of Married Women.

\* \* \* \*

St. Joan's Alliance wrote to the Prime Minister, begging that the following measures should find a place in the King's Speech: An adequate maternity service; equal nationality rights between men and women; the repeal of the present solicitation laws and the substitution of a law on the lines of the Public Places (Order) Bill, which deals with street solicitation by general legislation against annoyances or molestation, and under which the evidence of the person annoyed or molested would be necessary in order to obtain a conviction.

### WOMEN AND RESTAURANTS.

The managers of the Coventry, the Florence, Pinoli's and the Comedy, have written to St. Joan's S.P.A. stating that they have no restrictions excluding women unaccompanied by men, after specified hours.

### Death of Miss A. M. F. Cole.

We much regret to hear of the death of our member, Miss Cole—"the little heroine of the horses." She was a lover of animals, and devoted all her energies to the campaign for making the traffic in old horses illegal. She worked in Belgium during the war, and was imprisoned with her sister, Superior of a convent in Antwerp, for assisting British soldiers over the frontier. Both women expected to be shot. Miss Cole continued her humanitarian work till the very end; her indomitable will overcame bodily frailty. There will be a Bill for the protection of horses coming before Parliament, for which we can work—that is what Miss Cole would wish us to do.

We ask the prayers of our readers for the repose of her soul.—R.I.P.

## ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE,

AND

Editorial Office of "Catholic Citizen":

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

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

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

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## Maternal Mortality.

The public conscience is at long last awakening to the lamentably high death rate among mothers in childbirth. There has been of recent years a decrease in infant mortality, a general improvement in the health of the nation, but motherhood, a normal function, is still a most dangerous profession. The high maternal death rate has remained almost stationary for many years.

The Interim Report of the Departmental Committee on Maternal Mortality and Morbidity,\* recently published, is a disturbing document. The Committee was appointed by Mr. Neville Chamberlain in 1928, with Sir George Newman as chairman. Among the members of Committee were Dame Janet Campbell, Dr. Ethel Cassie, and Dr. Jane H. Turnbull, who acted as Secretary. The Committee have come to the conclusion that nearly fifty per cent. of deaths due to childbirth are preventable. If this be the case then a heavy responsibility lies on the people of this country. The care of mothers is not a service in which a civilized State can afford to economize.

Ten years ago a special section of the Medical Department of the Ministry of Health was created to deal with maternity and child welfare, staffed by medical women, and under the direction of Dame Janet Campbell, but although, since that time many measures have been taken to reduce

\* Ministry of Health. Interim Report of Departmental Committee on Maternal Mortality and Morbidity. H.M. Stationery Office, 2s. net.

the number of preventable deaths among mothers, it remains stationary at the high figure of four deaths per 1000, in 1929 4.3 per 1000, a figure which compares unfavourably with some other countries, such as Denmark 2.6, Finland 3.1, and Norway 2.8. On the other hand, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, New Zealand and South Africa have a worse record than ours. The Report continues: "The low death rate in the Scandinavian countries and in Holland has frequently been noted and not fully explained, although the great attention paid to the training and status of midwives in these countries probably plays an important part."

Briefly the Committee find that the primary avoidable causes fall into four groups:

(a) Absence of ante-natal care, in 17 per cent of cases; (b) errors of judgment in practice or treatment by doctors or midwives in 17 per cent.; (c) lack of reasonable facilities available for effective medical care, 5 per cent.; and (d) negligence of the patient or her friends to adopt or carry out medical advice, 9 per cent.

This gives a total of 48 per cent. of deaths which might have been avoided; in the remaining 52 per cent, although no preventable factor actually emerged, the Committee state definitely that if fuller knowledge had been available of the exact circumstances of death it would probably have revealed a primary avoidable factor.

The Committee recommend a National

Maternity Service, co-ordinating existing maternity services, and which should include:

- (1) The provision in every case of the services of a qualified midwife to act either as midwife or as maternity nurse.
- (2) The provision of a doctor to carry out ante-natal and post-natal examination in every case, and to attend during pregnancy, labour and the puerperium, as may prove necessary, all cases showing any abnormality.
- (3) The provision of a consultant, when desired by the doctor in attendance, during pregnancy, labour and the puerperium.
- (4) The provision of hospital beds for such cases as need institutional care.
- (5) The provision of certain ancillary services (e.g. home-helps, transport, sterilised equipment, laboratory facilities).

They further recommend the better education of medical students in obstetrics, better training of midwives, and count on the influence of a better informed public opinion. That public interest is being aroused was shown by the Conference on this subject, convened by the Maternal Mortality Committee at the Friends' House, on October 27th. It is estimated that about one thousand women, representing over 300 organizations, including St. Joan's S.P.A., were present, besides a few men. The Duchess of Atholl presided, and the chief speaker was the Minister of Health, Mr. Arthur Greenwood, M.P. Mr. Greenwood said that no expert could convince him that motherhood should be so dangerous a profession as it now is. He had no cut and dried national maternity scheme to propose, although he had read all the reports and suggestions sent in to the Ministry of Health, he did, however, sometimes wish he was a Dictator to compel laggard local authorities to come into line with the best, and make use of all the powers given to them to help the mothers. There was a black mark against England in this matter, but he hoped that as a result of a new appeal shortly to be issued, every local authority would give the problem more serious consideration.

A resolution in support of the recommend-

ations of the Interim Report, as quoted above, was carried unanimously.

This is not a subject for rhetoric or sentimentality; it is the clear duty of the State, and of the citizens to whom it is responsible, to do all in their power to save the mothers.

L. DE ALBERTI.

## Women and the Imperial Conference.

The British Commonwealth League, on behalf of its affiliated societies throughout the British Commonwealth, including St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, has submitted an important memorandum to the Imperial Conference on subjects common to the programme of various women's organizations throughout the Empire.

First and foremost is a resolution begging the Imperial Conference to take steps to apply the principle of equality of the sexes in matters of nationality. On this question the British Commonwealth League has asked the Imperial Conference to receive a deputation.

The memorandum calls attention to the fact that British women are still unenfranchised in Bermuda, Malta and Quebec.

Other important points dealt with are:

1. The abolition of recognized vice areas, tolerated brothels, the registration or licensing of prostitutes, or houses of prostitution and the compulsory periodic medical examination of women. At the same time, the memorandum points to the necessity for the free and confidential treatment of all persons suffering from venereal disease.

2. The urgent need for reciprocal legislation for the enforcement of maintenance and affiliation orders overseas.

3. The full and equal inclusion of women throughout the Public Services and the opening of overseas posts to women on the same terms as men.

4. On the question of slavery the memorandum insists that the women of the Empire are deeply concerned at the slavery of women, involving a property ownership in one person by another. It urges especially that these forms of slavery where the status of women is such that her husband's relations and other persons exercise

(Continued on page 87.)

## International Notes.

The Committee of Enquiry into the Traffic in Women and Children in the East, set up under the League of Nations, has held its first session. It was decided that the inquiry should be undertaken by three travelling commissioners, Mr. Bascom Johnson, Mr. Charles Pindor, and Madame Alma Sundquist. The inquiry will be confined to the international aspect of the question, but should national conditions in the countries visited seem to encourage the traffic, the commissioners, with the permission of local authorities, may institute inquiries of a national character.

The inquiry has been made possible by a grant of 125,000 dollars from the Social Hygiene Bureau of the Rockefeller Foundation.

\* \* \* \*

We note that the International Commission of Inquiry reports that widespread slavery exists in Liberia, including domestic slavery. We have not as yet seen the Report, but we trust that the enslavement of wives has been taken into account in dealing with domestic slavery. It is now reported in the Press that slaves are to be freed in Liberia. Domestic Slavery, forced recruiting for labour abroad, and the pawn system—that is the pledging of a member of a family as security for a loan, are abolished by proclamation. We trust that the proclamation will be obeyed.

\* \* \* \*

Representative women from Australia, Great Britain, Portugal, Rumania and the United States were received by M. Albert Thomas at the International Labour Office recently. Their object was to impress upon him the widespread desire among women for the realization of complete equality between the sexes in regard to industrial conditions, and to ask his opinion upon the methods which might be available for bringing about a change in the inequalities presented, particularly in the Conventions on Night Work and on Lead Paint.

The deputation was introduced by Miss Alice Paul, of the Inter-American Commission of Women, who stated that they were anxious to carry away with them some definite advice in matters relating to the development of labour conditions.

The speakers who followed Miss Paul were unanimous in the expression of their desire for a change in the generally accepted attitude towards women's work.

In reply, M. Thomas said that he fully appreciated the fact that many women felt deeply upon the question of industrial equality. In regard to one measure, at least, he was able to tell them that revision was already being considered. This was the Night Work Convention of 1919. He was, he said, fully in favour of such revision. To him, the ideal basis of industrial life lay in "the scientific selection of the right worker for the right work" regardless of sex.

"I assure you," M. Thomas said, "that in all the matters you have put before me, I have, and will have, an open mind."

\* \* \* \*

We take the following from the News Bulletin of the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship:

**ECUADOR.** The women of Ecuador have won equal citizenship rights. Art 13 of the Constitution lays down that "Each Ecuadorean man or woman over the age of 21 who knows how to read and write is a citizen."

**GERMANY.** The recent elections resulted in the return of 39 women members of the Reichstag, as against 35 in the last Reichstag, out of a total of 575 members. The Social Democrats head the list with 16 women; Communists 13; Centre (Catholic) 4; Nationalists 2; the German People's Party, the new Constitutional Party, the Bavarian People's Party and the Christian Social Service Party have one each.

**TURKEY.** One of the measures to be submitted to the Grand National Assembly in the extraordinary session that has just been called, is for the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women (who already have the municipal vote), and to establish universal suffrage in place of the present indirect electoral system.

A. A. B.

We record with regret the death of our member, Miss Price.—R.I.P.

We offer our sincere sympathy to Miss McEntee on the death of her father. Miss McEntee asks the prayers of our members for the repose of his soul.—R.I.P.

## Women and the Imperial Conference. (Contd.)

over her rights of ownership shall be examined with a view to their abolition.

The memorandum further asks whether the present expenditure on the education of the less forward races, especially that of girls, is adequate.

## The Vote.

The *Vote* published a Special Majority number on October 31, giving extracts from its first number, including a reprint from Mrs. Despard's 'Welcome' to the first *Vote*. It brings a rush of memories from the past—and provides a contrast by the improved status of women of to-day. Once again we wish our contemporary good luck and long life.

## Women Medical Students.

We are glad to record that King's College Hospital, by a unanimous vote, has raised the ban against women students, excluded from its medical school two years ago. We much hope that other hospitals will follow this example. King's has definitely decided against an anti-feminist policy, and believes in co-education. Women will be re-admitted in limited numbers next October. The recommendation of this step came from the Medical Board of the Hospital.

## LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

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

The Branch resumed activities with a very enjoyable Social on October 13th. Much pleasure was expressed at the change of meeting place and a very cordial vote of thanks was passed to the Liverpool Union of Girls' Clubs for their kindness in allowing us the use of their delightful and commodious premises on the same terms as the accommodation in Upper Parliament Street. During the course of the evening the Secretary, in outlining the winter's programme, appealed especially for members to interest themselves in the local campaign for Women Police and in the appeal about to be launched for England's amende honorable to St. Joan of Arc. The best thanks of the Branch are due to all those who by their gifts or services made this little effort a success. The Social (together with some

subscriptions collected at it) added £1 5s. to the funds.

On November 26th members are asked to turn up in large numbers, as there is to be a debate between us and the Liverpool Branch of the Distributist League. The subject is: "That modern conditions in England offer little encouragement to youth."

## SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS.

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Total £12 17 6

## TREASURER'S NOTE.

We are relying on all our members to do their utmost to make this month a big financial success by helping both with the Christmas Sale and with the Jumble Sale.

Please note that in the circular letter sent to members there was a mistake in the date of the Christmas Sale. This will be held at the Caxton Hall on Tuesday and Wednesday, November 25th and 26th, and there will be a private sale at our own office (55 Berners Street, W.1.) on the previous day, Monday, November 24th. Will all members make a point of sending at least one article for the Sale. These should be sent to the office as soon as possible, as should also names of volunteers for helping at our Stall at the Caxton Hall on one or both days.

The Jumble Sale will be held at the St. Barnabas' Church Rooms, Ranelagh Grove, Pimlico, S.W.1. (near Ebury Bridge) on Saturday, November 29th, at 3 p.m. Goods may be sent to me at any time (at 57 Carlton Hill, N.W.8.) or delivered at the Hall on the morning of November 29th. I should also be grateful for names of sellers (we want a great many), and also to anyone with a motor car who could help take the goods from Carlton Hill to Pimlico on the morning of the Sale.

Please everyone do something to ensure a really big sum from these two Sales.

VERA LAUGHTON MATHEWS,  
Hon. Treasurer.

**NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.**—All communications respecting Advertisements to be addressed THE MANAGER, *Catholic Citizen*, 55, Berners Street, London, W.1.,

**ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND  
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Patron: Saint Joan of Arc. Colours: Blue, White & Gold  
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Mr. Leon M. Lion will recite Mr. Humbert Wolfe's poem on St. Joan of Arc.

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