

WOMEN'S SERVICE  
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THE

# Catholic Citizen

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

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

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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.

## Saint Joan of Arc.

By Leonora de Alberti.

Nearly five hundred years have passed since that day in spring when a great crowd, some exultant, some pitiful, gathered in the marketplace of Rouen to witness the martyrdom of the young shepherdess of Domrémy. To-day vast crowds have gathered in Rome to witness the last chapter in a drama which has stirred, and still stirs the hearts of men, as though it had happened but yesterday. The long-wished for day that is to see the canonization of Joan of Arc has dawned at last. It is a great day for France, a great day for the Catholic world, and it will bring joy to many outside the fold. For the peasant girl who saved her country has become a world possession; innumerable books have been written round her, from the point of view of religion, from the point of view of history, even from a military point of view. Each one comes to the task eager to throw some new light on the strange child, whose story is unique in the annals of the human race. Like her Divine Master she was born of humble parents in an obscure village, and led to all appearance an uneventful life, though she was but thirteen when she first heard the Voices which were to guide her on her wonderful adventure. Like Our Lord, she had a short public career, and like Him again ended her life in seeming ignominy and shame on a gibbet, betrayed by her friends into the hands of her enemies, and left to die. The scoffer has endeavoured to find an explanation which shall expose her as a dupe or a charlatan—she was but a mascot, the tool of priests, a visionary—and still the simplicity of her character, the beauty of her life, her marvellous achievements have put the scoffer to flight, and the shame he sought to bring upon her has fallen on himself. There is but one way of understanding her story, and that is by accepting the explanation

which came from the lips of the Holy Maid herself. She was sent by God to save the fair realm of France, and that she came from God events have proved. Time cannot mar the freshness of the wonderful tale. She becomes before our reverent vision a slim young girl, who shrank from the sight of blood, yet dauntlessly led the armies of France to victory. Pure, she passed unscathed among the lewd soldiery; compassionate even to her enemies, there was no room for hatred of them in her generous heart. She has been called the patron saint of patriotism, and in her patriotism the desecrated word may be reconsecrated. In an age which decries miracles, she challenges a puzzled world, herself an unanswerable miracle. When standing before her treacherous judges, their learning baffled by an unlettered girl, Joan appealed to the Pope—she would abide by his decision; and though the trial for her rehabilitation was but twenty-five years after her martyrdom, it is to-day that Rome gives her final answer—Saint Joan of Arc. Surely her long delayed triumph has come at a time when the lessons of her life may be most appreciated. It was a wise inspiration which led the founders of our Society to choose the valiant maid as their patron—in victory and in failure, in sunshine and in gloom, may she cheer us on our thorny way and intercede for us with God.

\* \* \*

On the 16th of May twenty-five years will have passed since our Alliance, walking behind our banner in the great procession to Westminster Cathedral, took part in the celebration there in honour of the canonization of Saint Joan of Arc. We reproduce the article then written for our paper by its first editor.



## Notes and Comments

In the municipal elections in France on 29th April, Frenchwomen exercised their new right of suffrage for the first time. The *Daily Telegraph* reported that nearly 14 million Frenchwomen and more than 9 million Frenchmen cast their votes. At the party given two days later by British organizations to the President of the International Alliance of Women, Mrs. Corbett Ashby said that had it not been for our preoccupation with the war we would have decorated the country with flags to honour our French sisters' victory.

Mr. Morrison successfully upheld the rightness of his recent appointment of Miss Sybil Campbell as a Metropolitan police magistrate when Dr. Russell Thomas and Colonel Marlowe sought to show, by questions in the House of Commons, that since she was a woman it was unprecedented—as indeed it was, like many excellent reforms—and that she had not qualified for it by practising at the Bar for the period required by statute. The Home Secretary showed that she had amply satisfied the statutory requirement.

*Women at Work* reports the evidence submitted to the Royal Commission on Equal Pay by the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs. Based on 1,800 valid answers obtained by circulating 5,000 questionnaires, this evidence showed that out of every ten women earners, six have or have had dependents while some of the other four expect to have them; and that one out of every three women earners has been prevented from providing for her old age by financial obligations to her relatives. The latter fact implies that a class of elderly female dependents is being accumulated for the rising generation. The point was also made that while it is usually of their own choice that men have dependents, these are apt to be thrust on women by death or sickness in their families.

Miss Dorothy Elliott, O.B.E., and Miss Barbara Ward have been appointed to serve on the Departmental Committee on Double Day-Shift Working in the Cotton Industry. Miss Caroline Haslett has been appointed a member of the Board of Directors of the Disabled Persons Employment Corporation, Ltd.

We record a protest made by Ivor Brown in a recent *Observer* against the total lack of women on the boards of directors of the four great national railways. "This is," he says, "monstrous silliness."

We congratulate Miss Peter Ady, a graduate of Rangoon and Oxford Universities, on being the first Fellow to take up work under the recently instituted scheme for Fellowships in Colonial Research. She has left for the Gold Coast where she will study economic conditions among the small producers—Africans—of cocoa.

On the feast of the Annunciation we met for the first time one of the Catholic women students who have come to this country from Sierra Leone to train as teachers. One of them, an artist, was delighted to visit a picture gallery with us, while others went with us to the Houses of Parliament where they listened to debates in the Lords and Commons, had tea, and met Black Rod and several M.P.s.

By courtesy of the Colonial Office we were able also to make contact with a number of students from the West Indies who are training here as nurses.

If any members are willing to invite some of these girls to their homes, or show them the sights in their free time, or offer them hospitality during their holidays, will they kindly let us know? We should also like to know of a Catholic family willing to take a young Catholic African man, a medical student, as a boarder.

## International Notes

**Bermuda.** Mrs. Morrell, President of the Bermuda Suffrage Society, celebrated a victory won after a long struggle by planting a juniper tree in the grounds of the Sessions House "to commemorate the political enfranchisement of Bermuda women, May 15th, 1944."

**Inoia.** *The Medical Missionary* (U.S.A.) tells of a unique hostel opened by the Sisters of St. Alexius to give shelter to women who go to Margao to sell the produce of the fields and are obliged to spend nights away from home.

**Malta.** We offer our congratulations to Mrs. Burns de Bono and Miss Helene Buhagiar, Chairman and Hon. Secretary of the Women of Malta Association, on their admission to the National Assembly of Malta as delegates of their organization. Miss Strickland is also a member of the Assembly.

For the first time in colonial history, women will have a share in drafting a new constitution.

**Ukraine.** The American columnist, Edgar Snow, writing in the *Saturday Evening Post* on the Ukraine, says: "Out of 3,900 tractor drivers here this year, 3,500 are women. The Dean of the Ukrainian University, many of whose buildings were blown up by the Nazis before they left, told me he has 2,300 students back in the improvised classrooms. Four hundred are males."

"The men have only to fight," said a Russian feminist—rather a *rara avis* in this country, by the way—whom I met in the train, "we have to feed the army and clothe it and nurse it and arm it and protect the next generation all at once. Now we have to pick up the pieces here and rebuild the place and provide the future with new sons and daughters. They say this is a man's war, but there has never in history been anything that was more of a woman's war. No wonder we hate war more than men do."

"Women are doing most of the salvaging and the amount of labour involved in cleaning up after a demolition is seldom appreciated. At one former factory I watched some hundreds of women and boys working with their bare hands, trying to clear the debris from a corner of the plant."

**U.S.A.** *The Catholic Digest* quotes a most interesting article, condensed from the *Catholic Mirror*, describing a film, produced by Mrs. Royer, for many years Hollywood's only professional woman producer. "Obeying the Command" is the first film done in Hollywood which is Catholic in conception, production and direction, and in its cast of more than 200 persons of all races and colours. The Holy Child Association was responsible for the idea of the film, which tells the story of its Founder, Bishop Charles de Forbin-Janson. "Wholesale abandonment of baby girls in China inspired him to save many souls through the apostolate of the children of his own country." With funds collected from children he brought a first group of Sisters of Charity to China, to establish a refuge for these baby girls. This movement of the Holy Child Association spread all over the world. This film follows "Mission to America," a documentary film of the Franciscan conquest of the Pacific coast which was produced by Mrs. Royer in 1941.

The *Catholic Herald* reports that Archbishop Richard J. Cushing, of Boston, is taking part in a fight in Massachusetts against discrimination in the employment of labour on grounds of race, supporting seven Bills now before the State legislature which bars "job discrimination" "because of race, religion, creed, colour, national origin or descent." We suggest that sex might be added to this list. E.F.G.

## San Francisco Conference.

The following cable was sent to the Conference by the Liaison Committee on which St. Joan's Alliance is represented:

The Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations, considering that the new world organisation should be based on justice, security against aggression, respect for international law and for human rights and fundamental freedoms, urges that the following principles be incorporated in the proposed Charter of the United Nations.

a) All members of the organisation shall guarantee to every citizen, irrespective of sex, social standing, creed, race and birth—

1. Freedom from fear and want.
2. Freedom of speech, writing, opinion, association and meeting, marriage and worship, and freedom to earn.
3. Equality before the law.
4. Unhampered participation in free election of national and local governing bodies.
5. Protection of person and family, and of personal possessions, against violence and any kind of molestation.
6. Protection against imprisonment without trial.

(b) All sovereign states are juridically equal among themselves, and each of them, has the right to the respect of its individuality, integrity and independence on the part of the other members of the international community.

Recalling the Atlantic Charter, they adhere to the following principles:

They desire to see no territorial changes that do not accord with the freely expressed wishes of the people concerned, and they respect the right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they wish to live, and they desire to see sovereign rights and self-government restored to those who have been forcibly deprived of them.

### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

On May 1st at the Maison de France, there took place a gathering that was full of significance, for it was held, as Mrs. Corbett Ashby mentioned, to celebrate the beginning of the resumption of normal relations in a distracted world.

It was arranged by the N.C.E.C., St. Joan's Alliance, the W.F.L., and the B.C.L., to meet the President and those members of the Board of International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, who had come from abroad to resume work with their colleagues from whom they have been separated by the tragedy of war. Miss Marion Reeves presided.

Madame Boyer from Marseilles, who has worked and suffered in the Resistance Movement, stressed the fact that Frenchwomen had gained equality without opposition because they had worked and suffered equally with men in the Resistance Movement.

After having striven for the vote for many years, French women now had equal rights in municipal and parliamentary elections both as voters and as candidates. Shortage of paper explained the lack of publicity on this truly remarkable victory.

Mrs. Rydh, ex-member of the Swedish Parliament, was anxious that women should not be content with a passive role but should "be really politically active for the world."

Mrs. Slade, who had come from U.S.A. by way of Newfoundland and Iceland, said these countries had been following with sympathy the sufferings of Europe, and now there was no doubt of their desire to join in curing them. If the Charter of San Francisco is to lift the standard of all human life, men and women must play their part.

Madame Malaterre Sellier and Madame Andriée Lehman, who were to have been at the party, had returned to France in order to record their votes on April 29th.

(c) All members of the organisation agree to respect international law and faithfully to observe treaty obligations as the essential rule of peaceful international relations, and to base all procedure of the future world organisation on the principle that no state shall be judge in its own case.

(d) The Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations, realising that the creation of peace demands the steady development of co-operation among the nations and the emergence of a common international life at the level of everyday affairs, urges that the proposed Economic and Social Council should be given a more significant position in the said organisation, and that it should be included among the principal organs enumerated in chapter iv. of the Proposals.

The Government delegations to the San Francisco Conference have been increased by two more women: to the Chinese delegation, Dr. Wu Wi-Fang, member of the praesidium of the People's Political Council and president of Ginling Women's College, has been added; to the Brazilian delegation, Dr. Bertha Lutz, who did good work at the I.L.O. conference in Philadelphia last year.

We are glad to learn from the United States Office of War Information that among the organisations invited by Mr. Stettinius to send representatives as consultants to the American delegation are two Catholic organisations—the Catholic Association for International Peace and the National Catholic Welfare Conference; five women's organisations—the American Association of University Women, the General Federation of Women's Clubs, the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, the National League of Women Voters, and the Women's Action Committee for Victory and Lasting Peace; and the Nation's Association for the Advancement of Coloured People.

### A STEP FORWARD

We are indebted to Miss Hope Jones, one of our members in Pretoria, for information and cuttings concerning two Bills recently before the **South African Assembly**. *The Children's Guardianship Bill*, introduced by Mrs. Bertha Solomon, had at the time of writing reached the report stage and there seemed no doubt that it would become law. Whereas under the present law, the father is sole guardian of his child, this Bill allows a mother to invoke, without matrimonial proceedings, the aid of the courts, who must be guided by what is in the best interests of the child. Dr. Steyn, Minister of Justice, announced that the government raised no objection to the Bill, adding that the common law should, when necessary, be brought up to date. "The changed position of women to-day and the very different part they are playing from the time when these rules were drafted, make it necessary to bring about a change. Changes, however, should not be made without thorough investigation and with the support of women as a whole."

The *Married Women's Property Bill* passed its second reading on February 2nd, after the defeat of an amendment for its adjournment, by 3 votes to 26. The Bill seeks, in the words of Mrs. Solomon, "to give married women the ordinary human and simple right of controlling what they earn." In moving the second reading, Mr. Adolf Davis said that "South Africa is the only country in the world where a husband can appropriate his wife's earnings, and she is consequently in a worse position than a servant. She is in a position of absolute subordination." He said that the Bill had the support of all the women's organisations, including those of the Afrikaans. The opposition voiced the usual threadbare and foolish fears about the undermining of family life.

The Minister of Justice, explaining why the Government would not adopt the Bill, said that changes in the law governing the rights of women would have to be



tailed as a whole; some points in it undoubtedly require amendment.

Although this Bill, that of a private member, is unlikely to be given further facilities at present, the women's organisations will not let the matter rest.

From the statements of the Minister of Justice on these two Bills, may we hope for a change of heart regarding a married woman's right to her own independent nationality—a reform which has the support of women's organisations in both South Africa and the other Dominions?

#### WOMEN MEDICAL STUDENTS.

On March 29th, in the House of Commons, Dr. Edith Summerskill asked the Minister of Health: (1) what steps he proposes to take to provide tuition for the large number of women medical students now debarred from hospitals which reserve their teaching accommodation for men; (2) if he is aware that while men students enter hospitals without a competitive examination, women students have to compete for the small number of vacancies allotted to them; and if, in view of the great need for doctors after the war, he will increase the facilities for women medical students and abolish the competitive examinations now compulsory for them. In a further question, Mr. Messer drew the Minister's attention to the fact that many women who have taken their first M.B. cannot obtain places in the medical schools.

Mr. Willink answered: "It is necessary, in order that man-power may be allocated in the best way, to fix quotas for the numbers of men and women to be admitted as medical students. The women's quota is fixed by reference to the number of women students admitted in the three years 1937-40, and in addition a medical school which admits both men and women may make good the deficiency in male students by admitting women." Pressed by Dr. Summerskill, he said further: "I am fully aware of the urgency of the matter. The real difficulty is the shortage of teachers."

#### OBITUARY.

With regret we learn that Lieutenant-General Nikola L. Christitch, C.V.O., M.C., died recently in Belgrade. General Christitch was the son of our member Elizabeth O'Brien Christitch, the brilliant Irish writer, and the brother of our member Annie Christitch to whom we offer our deep sympathy in her loss. He was a distinguished soldier and Serbian patriot. The editor, as a member of the staff of the First Scottish Women's Hospital, which served the Serbian army in Kragujevatz, Serbia, in 1914-15, has a very pleasant recollection of his courtesy and kindness to her and her colleagues. *R.I.P.*

We ask for prayers for the repose of the soul of our member Madame Vallé Genairon who died recently. After the liberation we had a letter from her in which she said she was very ill. *R.I.P.*

We offer our deep sympathy to Mrs. Benjamin, one of our earliest and staunchest members, on the death of her husband. *R.I.P.*

#### ST. JOAN'S ALLIANCE

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TO HEAR and TO QUESTION

#### GENERAL ELECTION CANDIDATES

CHARLES CURRAN (U) for West Walthamstow

Mrs. DOREEN GORSKI (Lib.) for N. Hackney

Dr. ELIZABETH JACOBS (Lab.) for St. Marylebone

Dinner (2/6) from 6 p.m. for those who notify the Alliance before May 26th.

#### REVIEWS.

**Francis Xavier Cabrini.** By a Benedictine of Stanbrook Abbey. (Burn, Oates & Washbourne; 10s. 6d.)

Francis Cabrini is the first American citizen to be beatified, but she is not, strictly speaking, a product of the new world for she was born in Lombardy in 1850 and it was at Codogno that she founded what has since become a flourishing religious community, the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart. Her dearest wish was to work in China, but when in 1889 the call came for her to go to North America and work among the Italian immigrants, she set forth in obedience to the wish of Pope Leo XIII.

Her arrival in New York convinced her that she had found a suitable field for her labours, for the Italian immigrants were living under extremely bad conditions and it was a triumph for her sublime faith that she was able to raise money, with no official help, to educate, nurse and generally rehabilitate them.

The success which followed her first years of hardship in the United States was phenomenal. Schools, orphanages, hospitals and hostels, not restricted to Italians, were opened in North and South America: at the time of her death in 1917 there were 67 of these foundations which included houses in England, France and Spain.

A woman of deep holiness, Mother Cabrini was essentially active. She was very able and, as her biographer says, she was a modern woman by nature and inclination. Realising the increasing part which women would play in public life, she set herself to educate them for their new role, mindful always of the necessity for safeguarding spiritual values.

Like so many other valiant women, Mother Cabrini had a constant struggle against ill-health. This record of her life is full, vividly told and deeply inspiring.

M. O'C.

#### Report of the Reconstruction Sub-Committee of the British Federation of Business and Professional Women (1s.)

This interesting report deals in Part I with "Anomalies with which Women are confronted in Public Life"—matters frequently discussed in the *Catholic Citizen*. Part II, for which Miss M. E. Faulkner, President of the National Association of Women Civil Servants, is chiefly responsible, gives valuable information on "the existing machinery for wage negotiation as a preliminary to ensuring that women are included in the membership of Courts or Tribunals for any wage negotiating machinery."

**STOP PRESS.** We offer our deep sympathy to our former editor, Christine Spender, on the death on active service of her brother Michael, of the R.A.F. May he rest in peace.

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