

THE 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.

The Rate for the Job

By **Monica O'Connor**

I have been surprised recently to find that there is some apathy and hesitation among women themselves about equal pay. I thought that the principle of the rate for the job had been conceded and that we were only waiting for its implementation, but as successive Governments have failed to put this principle into practice, I cannot help thinking that one of the reasons for this is that they know that this feeling exists. It may, therefore, be useful to examine the case again.

I believe in the rate for the job because I have a feeling for justice. I think it is a moral issue and that everybody has a right to the rate for the job regardless of sex or colour or creed.

There was a case in the paper the other day where a ticket-collector was summoned for stealing the money given to him for fares and the defence put forward on his behalf was that he only earned £5 6s. a week, not, it was said, as much as a typist. The judge said: "That is entirely irrelevant. The community has assessed the relative values of a ticket-collector and a typist and it has decided that a typist is a more highly skilled and valuable member of the community than a ticket-collector." That, I think, is just. My mind accepts that; but when I find that a woman is paid a lower wage for doing the same work, because she is a woman, or a coloured man is paid less because of his colour, then I say that that is morally indefensible and the denial of a basic human right.

I have heard it said that equal pay would result in an unequal standard of living, but there are many different rates for different kinds of jobs and there is already an unequal standard of living. We are not at present paid in accordance with our needs and responsibilities and it is difficult to see how we could be. The system would be unworkable because it would be necessary to find out in each case what those needs and responsibilities were. Should a man be paid more

because he has four children, or less because he has none? Supposing his wife goes out to work? He might live in a house with a controlled rent. Is he to be paid less than the man who has to pay an inflated price for accommodation? He might have a private income, so might his wife. All these things create an unequal standard of living apart from differences in character and intelligence. Some people are able to do more with what they have than others. Some women, for instance, are able to make their own clothes, some men can do repairs in their houses. There would be endless difficulties in trying to arrive at a just assessment of the needs of each individual and I do not think that paying the rate for the job has much significance in this connection.

We all want a juster society, a more equitable distribution of wealth, and the history of our own country during the last few years has shown how this in some measure can be achieved by income tax deductions and allowances and family allowances, the National Health Service and free education, but I doubt whether we shall ever have an equal standard of living because of the innate differences between individuals.

Another contention is that, with equal pay, single women would enjoy a higher standard of living than married men. Of course, if a single woman without dependants does her own housework, laundry, cooking, mending and shopping, she will probably be able to afford more expensive holidays and better clothes than her married colleague earning the same wage, but if she wishes to live in the same comfort normally enjoyed by a man with a wife at home to look after him, then she will not only have to house and feed a housekeeper, but she will have to pay her a salary and give her time off and holidays with pay.

The opinion is also expressed that equal pay endangers the well-being of the family. It is said that a man should receive a higher wage

than a woman in order to encourage him to marry. The well-being of the family is of paramount importance, but as things are today I do not think it is necessary to try and make marriage more attractive to the man. It is the status of the woman which needs improving. I want to see her treated as an equal partner with rights and responsibilities, able and willing to take her full share in running the home. Here, unfortunately, many women do not help themselves. They still regard marriage as a means of livelihood, as an easy way out, and they put up with a great deal which they would not put up with if they were economically independent. Anybody with any experience of marriage problems knows that the money question is the cause of a great deal of unhappiness in a large number of families. Many wives do not know how much their husbands earn and they do not receive a fair proportion for the needs of the household.

When the children are small it is usually better for the mother to stay at home and look after them, and I would deprecate the idea that any mother with young children should be forced to work outside the home because of economic circumstances, but while she is looking after them I think she should have a legal claim to part of her husband's income. When, however, they no longer need her undivided attention, I think she would probably lead a much more interesting and satisfying life if she undertook paid work outside the home, apart from the contribution she could thus make to the welfare of the family and to the country which needs her services too. Then I think that their joint income should be shared.

John Stuart Mill in the 19th century said: "There will never be equality in marriage until women are economically independent and," he went on, "by this I do not mean that all married women should work outside the home, that is manifestly unreasonable, but I do mean that every woman should be able to support herself by her own efforts."

I wonder what he would say if he could see what is written for women by women in 1952. Take this example from a recent publication: "Remember, every man is most vulnerable in his pride in what he considers the exclusive masculine attributes of intellectual and physical superiority. The wise woman, even if she discovers that these conceptions are not always true will never attempt to break down this citadel of pride. The very first step in keeping a man is to use tact, to build up his self-respect and never attempt to deflate his ego."

That is not the right foundation for marriage, in my opinion, there is no equal partnership there and yet that is typical of the attitude of mind revealed in so many of the magazines read by

women today and it is an attitude of mind which I think we should do our best to alter.

Status does depend on an equal pay packet and therefore I think it is important that women should be prepared to earn the rate for the job and feel that they deserve it. It will give them self-respect and self-satisfaction and I ask for equal pay to be granted not as a favour but as a right.

LASTING PEACE

Lasting Peace the I.L.O. Way (International Labour Office, Geneva; 1951, 1s. 6d.) is the story of the International Labour Organisation from its inauguration as Part XIII of the Treaty of Versailles. The words adopted then, April 11th, 1919, "whereas universal and lasting peace can be established only if it is based on social justice" have been the inspiration of the I.L.O. ever since—and the book gives a simple and interesting account of the way the I.L.O. works and the things it has attempted and done.

The book says truly that "a higher standard of living cannot be provided unless there is an increase in the production of goods and an expansion of services," — and "because these things are evident" — the I.L.O. has never hesitated to concern itself with the economic policies that affect productivity. Perhaps these things are not so evident to the general public; this book should help to make them so. Perhaps, too, the I.L.O. will see that restrictions on women's work also affect productivity and the status of women and will allow women to judge for themselves how they shall contribute to the "elimination of poverty everywhere."

P.C.C.

HON. TREASURER'S NOTE

Many thanks to all who gave so generously at the Annual General Meeting. With money and promises we now have the grand total of £43 13s. 6d. A Farthing Fund was launched at the meeting and if any reader would like to join, the scheme is as follows. One farthing is put away the first week, a halfpenny the second, three farthings the third—and so on, adding an extra farthing each week. If you would like to join for six months it means you send us 7s. 6d. on September 13th; if you would rather join for a year you bring with you £1 10s. 6d. to the next Annual General Meeting. If you feel like joining would you be kind enough to let me have your names, please.

Subscriptions for 1952 are now due. If you have not paid yours yet will you please see that you do so as soon as possible in order that we can keep pace with our rising expenses.

N. K. CARR, Hon. Treasurer

Notes and Comments

After March 31st the fees payable by aliens who apply for naturalisation or for registration were raised. The fee for a certificate of naturalisation is now £20 instead of £15 and the fee for the registration of an alien wife of a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies is £1 instead of 10s.

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Lady Lithgow has been appointed Chairman of Lithgow's, Ltd., of Glasgow, one of the biggest shipbuilding firms in the world.

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We offer our deep sympathy to our member, Mrs. Gough, on the sudden death of her husband, and ask our members to pray. R.I.P.

* * *

We ask the prayers of our members for Mrs. Elizabeth Horan, first vice-president of St. Joan's Alliance in Melbourne who died recently. R.I.P.

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Bechuanaland. The *Revue Abolitioniste* reports that a proclamation dated April 1st, 1949, prohibits the procurement of women for immoral purposes. Unfortunately, the proclamation is marred by a clause similar to the clause in our Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1885, which excluded from the protection of the law "common prostitutes and women of known immoral character or women whose usual place of abode is a brothel." Now that at long last this blot has been wiped out here by the passing of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1951, we trust that Bechuanaland will speedily follow suit.

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France. An article on "a new regulationist offensive" by Madame Legrand-Falco, President of the French Branch of the International Abolitionist Federation described the efforts being made in France by the "tenanciers" to reopen the "maisons tolerées." It appears in *Le Droit des Femmes*.

M. Mazuez, a deputy to the National Assembly, has brought forward a proposition for a law to this end and supports his proposition by such statements as that decent women cannot walk in the best quarters of the town without being subjected to disagreeable incidents; that cases of immorality and rape have multiplied; and that the decrease in venereal disease, which cannot deny, is solely due to modern therapeutic methods.

These arguments are known, by those who have experience in the abolitionist movement, to be false—but they are useful as propaganda.

M. Mazuez even proposes the building of new brothels, and this when so many families are without homes and young couples cannot marry for want of a place to live in.

Madame Legrand-Falco cites the many protests that have arisen at the threatened back-sliding of the country whose courageous action in 1946 in closing the houses, had brought forth such felicitations and whose example had been followed in Belgium and was so valuable to abolitionists in Italy. She quotes the Section of Social Questions of the United Nations as saying: "It is not necessary to remind you that legislation tolerating commercial prostitution encourages and stimulates traffic in women and tends to undermine the development of the Convention of the United Nations for the Suppression of the Traffic in Women."

Madame Legrand-Falco adds a postscript to say that the Family Commission of the National Assembly, by 30 votes and two abstentions, voted against the re-opening of the "maisons tolerées." A Sub-Commission has been set up to study the question but unfortunately no woman serves on the Commission.

* * *

Italy. The Italian Senate has passed the "Merlin Law" which abolishes State regulation of prostitution. The law has still to come before the Chamber, but in spite of the organised opposition and the enormous financial interests involved, there is good hope of its success. All Government-licensed houses of prostitution, of which there are 717, must close within four months of the publication of the law in the official gazette. Debts incurred by residents in such houses are cancelled and also all contracts made for the letting of such houses. Very heavy penalties are prescribed for anyone opening a new house, so as to make any form of white slave traffic impossible. The notorious card index system is forbidden. The *police des mœurs* are abolished and will be replaced by women police who are to pay particular attention to juvenile delinquency. Provision will be made for Government assistance to the 4,000 women from the *case di tolleranza*; there will be free and non-compulsory treatment for venereal disease.

We offer our sincere and heartfelt congratulations to Senator Angelina Merlin (Socialist) who for the past three years has steadfastly laboured for this triumph against much opposition and often vile and scurrilous attacks. To Signora de Silvestri, too, who has done so much work for this truly Abolitionist Bill, we offer our congratulations. Signora de Silvestri, in writing to us to announce the victory, said she "was very tired but very happy."

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The Sixteenth Congress of the International Alliance of Women will be held at the Royal Palace in Naples, September 14th to 18th.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE

AND

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Signed articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Society

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The 41st Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting was held in St. Patrick's Clubroom, Soho, on March 15th. Miss P. C. Challoner, in the Chair, expressed the joy of the meeting in welcoming back Dame Vera Laughton Mathews after her illness.

Canon Reardon opened the proceedings by saying that the distant places mentioned in the Annual Report showed how far the influence of the Alliance was spreading. He hoped the work would extend more and more with new blood to help it on, combined with the faith and experience of the older members.

The Hon. Secretary then presented the Annual Report. But first she told the meeting that a debt was owed to Miss Challoner for writing the Report and she added that she was in no way abashed at having to read the record of the honour bestowed on her by the Holy Father as it was really an honour bestowed on the Alliance and each individual member shared in the glory. Believing in the communion of saints, Miss Barry was convinced that those who had gone before were with us to rejoice. She mentioned particularly Gabrielle Jeffery, the founder; Kathleen FitzGerald, the first chairman; Leonora De Alberti, the first brilliant editor of *The Catholic Citizen*; Elizabeth Bowden, Liverpool hon. secretary who lost her life in a Merseyside raid.

Miss Spender presented *The Catholic Citizen* report and appealed to members to help the finances of the paper by supporting the advertisers, advertising themselves, and by taking out a subscription for a friend.

Mrs. McCann, the Liverpool chairman, then presented the Merseyside Branch report.

Miss Eleanor FitzGerald, a foundation and valued member, moved the adoption of the Annual Report. Miss FitzGerald spoke of her amazement that the little Society of St. Joan's started forty-one years ago had now blossomed into a work of international importance. It had

always been hampered by lack of funds and lack of working space but no limitations would stop it going on. Many young girls of today, said Miss FitzGerald, did not realise at what cost the vote had been won but many others had this realisation. There were certain gold letter days in the life of the Alliance—there was the winning of the vote and the day women entered Parliament and one of the recent gold letter days was the bestowing of the Cross *pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* on the Secretary.

Miss McGovern, in seconding the adoption of the Report, said that though she was not of the generation which fought for the vote she felt strongly that there was still the question of economic equality for which to fight and this affected us all. Having read *The Catholic Citizen* she was amazed at the scope of the Alliance and at the tremendous amount achieved by the few who work in a very small room and those who travel abroad on the business of the Alliance. She had felt when she visited the office that cheerfulness and a sense of humour abounded and she would like to say thank you to those who did such admirable work.

Miss Angelina Esangebedo from Nigeria said that women there were rapidly gaining their political independence. She herself had taken up optics to see what service she could do with this profession on her return to her own country.

Miss Ann Whittles was introduced as one of the younger members of St. Joan's and a daughter of a well-loved former member. She spoke of the cost of the production of *The Catholic Citizen* and explained that rising costs had hit periodicals so heavily that no less than fifty had been obliged to give up in the very near past. Added to the cost of paper and printing there was the cost of postage as the paper was sent out from the office. In order to cover these costs there was need for larger circula-

RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE 41st ANNUAL MEETING

I. Draft International Covenant of Human Rights

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance calls upon the Government to instruct its delegate to the Human Rights Commission to press for:—

- (a) *Right of Petition.* In the measures for implementation of the Covenant, the right, not only of States, but of groups and individuals to petition the United Nations in respect of violations of human rights.
- (b) *Marriage.* The inclusion in the Covenant, among the inalienable *civil* rights which should be protected by law, of an article on marriage declaring that—
 - (i) All persons shall have equality before the law in all matrimonial questions; no marriage shall be contracted before the age of 14, and without the free consent of both intending spouses;
 - (ii) Marriage and the family shall be protected by the State and Society;
 - (iii) The family deriving from marriage is best protected by a system of monogamy.
- (c) *Medical.* The deletion in Article 4 of the words "involving risk, where such is not required by his state of physical or mental health." The Article then to read:

"No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. In particular, no one shall be subjected against his will to medical or scientific experimentation."

II. Equal Pay

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance deplors the recent statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer that he is not prepared to alter the relativity in the rates of pay of men and women in the Civil Service. This statement is a repudiation of the principle of equal pay. The Alliance reminds the Chancellor that in June, 1951, while in Opposition, he pressed the Government to extend the area in which equal pay was already granted in the Civil Service.

The Alliance calls upon the Government to remove this long-standing injustice by the immediate establishment of equal pay for men and women throughout the Government services.

III. Child Marriage

Whereas the Governments of France, Belgium, the Union of South Africa and Southern Rhodesia have so far advanced the status of African women in their territories as to require the free consent of both parties for a valid marriage, St. Joan's Alliance demands that a similar advance be secured by legislation in all territories under British jurisdiction.

Such legislation should lay down that:

1. The free and full consent of both spouses shall be indispensable to the validity of a marriage.
2. No marriage contract shall be made for any girl under the age of 14, nor for any woman over that age without her consent.

IV. Equal Moral Standard

- (a) St. Joan's S.P.A. rejoices at the passing of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1951, and congratulates the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene on the success of its long fought campaign.

(Continued Next Page.)

tion which rested upon all, and members must support *The Catholic Citizen*.

The Treasurer's Report was read by Miss Noreen Carr, and Miss Anne Carolan, a young member from Sydney, moved its adoption. Miss Carolan congratulated those who balanced the budget of the Alliance. The increased cost, this year, of *The Catholic Citizen* alone was over £70. It was incredible that so much work was done on so little money thanks to the faithful workers. Miss Carolan said that on her return to Sydney she would encourage her young friends to join the Alliance. She found that her membership of the Alliance had done much to increase her general knowledge and had inspired her to take renewed interest in St. Joan herself. Miss Buckmaster seconded the Report from the floor.

The Executive Committee was re-elected and only one nomination having been received—that of Lady Hills (Mary Grace Ashton), she was elected in place of Miss Aline Fenwick, who was obliged to resign as she was leaving London. Miss Challoner thanked Miss Fenwick for her services on the Committee.

In the Chairman's address Miss Challoner addressed herself to the younger members, drawing their attention to the words so often occurring in *The Catholic Citizen* and the Annual Report that resolutions had been sent to the "appropriate authorities." She wanted to describe the machinery of legitimate pressure that a national body could bring to bear where work done internationally was in question. This meant asking the Government to instruct its delegates to carry out the proposals of the Alliance at International Conferences. Legitimate measures at home included pressure brought to bear on candidates for local elections, the lobbying of M.P.s, deputations and letters in the Press. Lobbying only meant sending for your M.P. in the lobby of the House and talking to him for the good of his soul. Miss Challoner made a plea to members to take more interest and try to understand the work done by their fine leaders in the international field, so as to give them the support, as it were, of an informed and intelligent electorate.

The Treasurer then made an impassioned appeal for funds which resulted in the sum of £43 13s. 6d. in contributions and promises.

The resolutions on page 29 were put to the meeting and after some discussion were passed unanimously. Tea followed, dispensed by Miss Carr with home-made cakes kindly contributed by Miss Hayes and Miss Morgan, and the addition of a delicious Australian cake, the gift of Miss Flynn.

The gathering was a particularly happy one, attended by friends old and new in an atmosphere of energy and determination.

Resolutions (contd.)

- (b) St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance calls for the repeal of the present unjust Solicitation Laws and the substitution of a measure dealing with street solicitation by general legislation against annoyance or molestation, and under which the evidence of the person annoyed or molested would be necessary in order to obtain a conviction.

V. Reaffirmations

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance reaffirms the resolutions on Equal Political Rights; Taxation; National Insurance; Domicile; and Education, passed at the 40th Annual Meeting of the Alliance in 1951.

FEMALE CIRCUMCISION

St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance has submitted the following Memorandum—with Appendices attached—to the Sixth Session of the Status of Women Commission.

This Memorandum has the support of the following organisations: The Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations; International Council of Women, International Alliance of Women, World's Women's Christian Temperance Union, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, Federation Internationale des Amies de la Jeune Fille, International Federation of Women Magistrates.

Memorandum

St. Joan's International Alliance wishes to bring the matter of female circumcision, known sometimes as "excision," to the notice of the Status of Women Commission, believing that knowledge of the facts will strengthen the hands of those who are endeavouring to bring this harmful custom to an end.

Female Circumcision is sometimes no more than a ceremonial rite; in other forms it is degrading; at its worst an inhuman mutilation. For a description see Appendices I, II, V, VIII. It is contrary to the Declaration of Human Rights.

Article 3: "Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and the security of person."

Article 5: "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

This custom is found in many parts of the world. (See map in Appendix II, also Appendices VIII and IX.)

Our fullest documentation comes from the Sudan. (Appendices II, III, IV, V.) Religion is quoted in defence, but Islamic leaders state that it is not part of Islamic law—at least in any but the slightest form—that it is pre-Islamic practice which has become embedded in the religion of the people. Some say that it is not necessary for women at all, and all agree in condemning the worst form, the Pharaonic, while acknowledging that the Prophet accepted—because he was not able to prevent the lesser type—the Sunna. (Appendices II, III, IV, V.)

Circumcision for women, except the mildest type, has been declared illegal in the Sudan, where there are enlightened and courageous doctors, nurses, midwives and political leaders. (Appendices II, III, IV, V.) There, the fight to overcome opposition is continuous; a League of Mothers (Appendix III) who promise not to submit their children to this practice, has been formed; trained midwives speak in the outlying districts, and as their influence spreads, that of the "wise women" on whose offices the rite depends, will wane.

To the men also education must be directed. So long as in some countries girls fetch a higher bride-price when they have undergone this operation, no real change will be possible. As with the binding of the feet in China, when a custom is no longer "fashionable" it is more easy to kill.

St. Joan's Alliance believes that education and propaganda are invaluable and that world opinion has its power, but it also believes that there should be no complacency and no compromise with degrading practices; one of the best educators is sound law; it is imperative to follow up propaganda by a law forbidding the practice in any of its forms.

Prohibition of this custom should come from the people's councils and legislative assemblies, but an expression of world opinion from the United Nations will help to arouse world conscience on a barbarous practice, and so influence Governments and the makers of new Constitutions.

St. Joan's Alliance trusts that the Status of Women Commission will bring this harmful custom into the open and so help to bring it to an end.

Miss Challoner represented St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance at the Status of Women Commission with the expert support of Miss Hills Young, M.B.E., D.N. (London), S.R.N., S.C.M., Ex-Principal Midwives Training School, Sudan Medical Service. Miss Barry represented the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations.

EQUAL PAY

The campaign for equal pay is in full swing. Following the deputation to the Treasury representatives from the Equal Pay Campaign Committee were received by the Party leaders of the London County Council, urging the establishment of equal pay throughout the Council's Services and as negotiators on the Burnham Committee for teachers' salaries. The Minister of Education also received a deputation from the E.P.C.C., when the hope was expressed that the time would come when a political party would give the same support to the principle, when in power, as it was willing to give in opposition. Miss Horsbrugh told the deputation there was little hope that it would be possible for the Government at present to give a lead regarding the introduction of equal pay in the teaching profession.

Lobbying must be kept up to be effective. Members who are willing to join St. Joan's lobby parties are asked to send in their names to the office.

On Friday, May 9th, at 7 p.m., we expect all members within reach of London to attend the Mass Demonstration at the Central Hall, Westminster, organised by the E.P.C.C. to demand equal pay forthwith. The speakers will be Miss Irene Ward, M.P., Rt. Hon. Dr. Edith Summerskill, Mrs. Clement Davies, and Mrs. E. M. White, with Mrs. Cazalet Keir in the chair. Entrance will be free. Reserved seats, 2s. 6d., may be had from St. Joan's Office.

The Month in Parliament

The high point of the month was, of course, Mr. Butler's controversial but undeniably clever Budget, on March 11th. Other questions debated included Supply, Army, Navy and Air Force, Manpower, Defence, Iron and Steel, and Agriculture.

From our own point of view there were a number of somewhat scattered points of interest.

The question of denominational schools and school buildings was discussed on a number of occasions. On February 28th, Mr. Lever asked Miss Horsbrugh "when the Government propose to introduce legislation to assist financially the denominational schools." Miss Horsbrugh replied: "I can give no further information at present." Mr. Lever then referred to the "very advanced stage" that had been reached by the last Government in relation to this all-important matter. Miss Horsbrugh did not, she said, know exactly what was meant by "very advanced," but hoped that the results of the present discussions would be regarded as "the best obtainable by all concerned."

On March 3rd Mr. Philip Bell asked the Minister about consultation with the Catholic Authorities about assistance for new Catholic voluntary schools and what the estimated cost of such new schools as have been licensed would be. Miss Horsbrugh had no information on the consultations; on the costs she said: "The total value of the new Roman Catholic schools approved by my Department between the end of the war and the end of 1951 is about £5¼ million."

On March 6th Mr. David Logan asked the Minister "if she is aware that the financial obligations of the Education Act are almost impossible to be borne by the Catholic population; whether negotiations with the various bodies have now been completed; and when an enabling Bill is likely to be introduced by her so as to ease the financial position in regard to Catholic schools." In this connection Miss Horsbrugh replied: "I should like to make a statement as soon as I can. I am having discussions now but I have not been in charge for twelve months."

Another question raised on a number of occasions was that of affiliation and maintenance. On February 29th Mr. Crouch's Private Members' Bill on the subject was introduced. As he said: "The purpose of this Bill is to bring the law relating to the maintenance of children born out of wedlock into line with that for legitimate children in regard to the maximum amount that may be ordered for maintenance by a magistrate's court and the age up to which maintenance may be made payable." Mr. Lawrence Turner, in support, said: "It is an essentially Christian measure, and I would suggest to the

House that, as children legitimate or illegitimate are believed to be equal in the sight of God, so also ought they to be equal in the sight of those who make affiliation orders. . . . I submit to the House that whatever our views may be on sexual morality on the part of parents, we ought never to visit those views on the offspring of such people, and that we shall never stop downward moral trends by discriminating between children."

On March 12th Mr. Richard Wood raised the question of affiliation orders by German women against British Service men. The Joint Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Anthony Nutting) replied: "The contractual settlement is still under negotiation. . . . I can tell the House that we have had conversations on this matter with the German Federal Government which have so far been encouraging and that I hope a settlement will be reached."

Questions concerned with the enforcement of maintenance orders between various parts of the Commonwealth were asked on March 6th (Mr. Fletcher Cooke), March 18th (Mr. Hector Hughes), and March 11th (also Mr. Hector Hughes) with special reference to Scotland.

Mr. Foster, Under-Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations, replied that "the only territories of members of the Commonwealth other than the United Kingdom to which the Maintenance Orders (Facilities for Enforcement) Act, 1920, has not been extended by Order in Council are the Canadian Provinces of Quebec and New Brunswick and other parts of India and Pakistan which were not formerly part of British India. The Act will be extended to New Brunswick in the near future but the legislature of Quebec has not yet made the provision necessary to enable the Act to be extended to Quebec. The position of the former Indian States is under consideration." In Scotland, however, according to the Secretary of State for Scotland, there are grave difficulties in the way of reciprocal agreements.

On March 10th Mr. Sorensen pointed out an injustice in the National Insurance Grants. He asked "in view of the hardship of the refusal to pay maternity grants in respect of British subjects temporarily employed by the United Kingdom High Commission in Germany, whether he will take steps to remove this grievance and thus entitle contributors to secure the benefits for which they have contributed." Mr. Peake replied that he hoped to be able to make an announcement about this particular anomaly in the near future.

As a point of interest, Mr. Driberg, on March 13th, asked the Home Secretary why various women were refused permission to enter the

United Kingdom in order to attend the International Women's Day celebrations on March 8th. Sir D. Maxwell Fyfe replied: "The International Women's Day celebrations, under their present direction, are part of the Soviet-inspired campaign against the policy of the members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and I decided, after consulting my right hon. friend the Foreign Secretary not to extend the hospitality of this country to foreigners whose object in coming here is to carry on this campaign under the colourable pretext of concern for the interests of women." B. M. HALPERN

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

*Mgr. T. J. Walshe in "The Catholic Citizen,"
April 15th, 1927.*

I am proud to number you among my friends. We cannot help smiling now at the attitude of certain critics in days gone by. They regarded us with suspicion as being infected with the revolutionary spirit, but the terrible war brought to light many truths—notably, the ineptitude of politicians. Our critics failed to see that our aim was and is to introduce into the conduct of public affairs an element, the influence of which makes for "Glory to God and peace to men of Goodwill."—*Letter from Monsignor T. J. Walshe.*

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