

THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

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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.

Madame Acarie, 1566-1618

By Christine Spender

In 1791 Barbe Acarie was beatified as Blessed Mary of the Incarnation.

Shortly after she was widowed in 1613 she became a Carmelite nun in one of the Convents she had helped to found in France, and there died four years afterwards. But previously to this she had been the wife of Pierre Acarie for thirty-one years and borne him six children. She was one of the outstanding figures of the spiritual renaissance in France which had as its crown and culmination St. Francis de Sales on the one hand and St. Vincent de Paul on the other.

This biography* by Lancelot C. Shepherd is the longest study we have yet had of Madame Acarie in the English language. It is therefore of great interest as it assembles a host of fresh material. But one cannot quite agree with Mr. Shepherd's main thesis—namely that as wife and mother Barbe Acarie achieved sanctity. If he means that *while* she was wife and mother she achieved sanctity then he is right; but if his assertion is that *on account* of her marriage and motherhood she became a saint then he is wrong. For this remarkable woman would have attained to great things in any state of life and it is as a human being that she approaches sainthood.

She married very young—at the age of sixteen—and she was happy in her marriage, more especially as a young woman. She was a delightful mother being more at ease with her children than most mothers of the time. She remained devoted to Pierre till the end of his life—and he to her; but nevertheless he proved a disappointing and unsatisfactory person, criminally extravagant, of uncontrolled temper with an innate inability to grow up. It was Barbe who had to rescue him when his financial affairs got into hopeless confusion and his impulsive nature led him into difficulties.

All the same one can sympathise with Pierre's discomfiture when he found that his wife's position became more and more important while his own declined. However well Barbe became the

household as its mistress, however dutiful she was as his wife, Pierre, being but human, was often irritable and unreasonable because he felt "out of it." He made various attempts to help his wife in her apostolic work, but on account of his somewhat childish character none of them were successful. Mr. Shepherd, in fact, deals sympathetically with Pierre's difficulties. He started out as an attractive and wealthy man but his impulsive support of the Holy League lost him his fortune and exiled him from France for four years. At the end of this time he returned to find that his wife was permanently and badly crippled as a result of three accidents. Unfortunately for Pierre the Holy League was the end of all achievement.

Barbe was by no means the unwilling wife she was represented by some of the witnesses in the deposition for her Beatification. Till her dying day she loved Pierre and was solicitous for his comfort and welfare. Yet her marriage can hardly be called ideal in all its aspects.

When Barbe was twenty-two and already had several children, Pierre came home one day to find her reading a novel called *Amadis*. He did not approve of novel-reading, there was a stormy scene, but a little later Monsieur Acarie borrowed an armful of devotional works for his young wife. She read these voraciously and one day she came across this passage: "He asks too much to whom God is not sufficient." With the reading of this sentence Madame Acarie's life was completely changed. She experienced a violent awakening to the supernatural life. With this awakening came a period of ecstasies which would seize her at awkward moments. These troubled her much and it was not until the English Benedict Canfield (who had become a French Capuchin) reassured her that she was at peace. In spite of the demands of difficult family affairs and the responsibility of mothering six children Barbe increased her religious and charitable activities and rapidly became the centre of a circle of spiritual leaders in France. Among them was Pierre de Berulle, a pupil of Benedict of Canfield and later Cardinal of Paris, and De Marillac, afterwards Chancellor

*Barbe Acarie. *Wife and Mystic*. By Lancelot G. Shepherd. (Burns Oates, 16s.)

of France. Duval, Doctor of the Sorbonne, who was afterwards to write her life, was also of this circle. Barbe Acarie's genius for spiritual discernment was soon recognised and her advice sought from all quarters. Using her spiritual influence to the full she attempted the reform of the Convents around Paris, many of which had grown slack in observance, and she was the heart and soul of a movement in Paris which banded together young girls in preparation for the religious life. Many of these returned with her to her own house and were trained as postulants for the future Carmelite and Ursuline Convents which were Barbe's chief work.

As a result of three visions of Saint Teresa of Avila, Barbe became convinced that the introduction of the Carmelites to France was to come about as the consequence of her labours. With the assistance of Berulle the consent of the Holy See was obtained and six Teresian nuns were persuaded to come from Spain to France. These negotiations took some time but once the six nuns were in France it was not long before there were three Carmelite foundations. Madame Acarie showed a marked ability in discerning vocations and her trained postulants were ready to fill the Convents.

After her husband's death in 1613 Barbe entered the Carmelite Order as a lay-sister being known in religion as Sister Mary of the Incarnation. She entered at the age of forty-seven and died in the Convent of Pontoise—where she was particularly happy—at the age of fifty-two.

Barbe Acarie achieved a surprising amount, in addition to what was naturally expected of her, and in spite of indifferent health. Like St. Teresa she was a heroic woman whose influence spread far and "who lived constantly and consciously in the presence of God."

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

From "The Catholic Citizen," 15th April, 1928.

The proposed banning of women medical students by King's College, Charing Cross and Westminster Hospitals is nothing short of a scandal. Various reasons have been given, but there is only one reason, and that is men's fear of the competition of women. It is this fear that is at the bottom of all restrictions on women's work, whether in professional or industrial careers. The Senate of London University has set up a committee to enquire into the position, and it is hoped that the hospitals referred to, will be brought to see the injustice of their proposal.—
Notes and Comments.

(Resolutions continued)

8. Reaffirmations

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance reaffirms the resolutions demanding equality between men and women in taxation, national insurance, domicile, and education, passed annually for very many years.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE 42nd ANNUAL MEETING

1. The Coronation

On the occasion of the Coronation of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance with humble duty offers respectful homage to Her Majesty and the assurance of the prayers of its members for a long, happy and peaceful reign.

The Alliance trusts that Her Majesty's reign may see the speedy removal of the remaining legal disabilities under which Her Majesty's women subjects suffer in this country and throughout the Commonwealth.

2. Equal Political Rights

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance demands that Peeresses in their own right shall have a seat and vote in the House of Lords. Further, that in any measure designed to reform the Second Chamber, men and women shall have the same right to sit and be elected.

3. Equal Pay

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance deplors the continued injustice suffered by women on account of unequal rates of pay. It calls upon the Government to establish equal pay for equal work between men and women in the public services and thus implement the principle which was accepted by the House of Commons in 1920, 1936, 1944, and 1952.

4. Solicitation Laws

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.

5. Marriage

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance calls upon the Government to introduce legislation in all territories under British jurisdiction to provide that—

- (i) the free and full consent of both spouses shall be indispensable to the validity of a marriage;
- (ii) No marriage contract shall be made for any girl under the age of 14.

6. 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 the following:—

(i) *Right of Petition.* In the measures for implementation of the Covenants, the right, not only of States, but of groups and individuals, to petition the United Nations in respect of violation of Human Rights.

(ii) *Medical.* That article (5) of the Draft Covenant on Civil and Political Rights be amended to read:

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment. No one shall be subjected to medical or scientific experimentation without his free consent.

(iii) *Marriage.* That an article on marriage, similar to article 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights be included in the Draft Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

7. Birth Control

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance expresses its satisfaction at the statement of Her Majesty's Government on July 18th, 1952, that birth control is not a subject for decision by the World Health Organisation, and trusts that Her Majesty's Government will maintain this policy at future sessions of the World Health Organisation.

(Continued in previous column)

Notes and Comments

With the whole Nation we mourn the death of Queen Mary. As the Prime Minister said in his tribute in the House of Commons, there was not in living memory a figure more widely known or more universally honoured, or held in more deep-seated affection and respect than Queen Mary. "She looked a Queen: she acted like a Queen. Her death leaves a void in our hearts and in the life of the nation, a void which it will be hard indeed to fill."

May she rest in peace.

St. Joan's Alliance sent a telegram of condolence to H.M. Queen Elizabeth II.

* * *

St. Joan's Alliance announces a Meeting on "The Battle for Education," to be held on June 30th, 7 p.m., at The Holy Child Convent, Cavendish Square, by kind permission of Reverend Mother. Mrs. Halpern will be the speaker, with Miss P. C. Challoner in the chair. We beg our members to attend, bring their friends, and make this meeting a success.

A further Meeting will be held on June 30th on "The Opening of the Medical Profession," when Dr. Janet Aitken will be the speaker. Time and place to be announced later, but please note in your diaries.

* * *

Many members have not yet sent in their petition forms for *Equal Pay*, and the time has been extended for another month. Please make full use of the further period as a million signatures take some collecting.

The Alliance has been greatly cheered by the response from the Convents which it circularised. To date 1,300 signatures from 47 different Orders, both contemplative and active, have been received. The cost of postage is heavy, and if anyone feels inspired to send a contribution we shall be most grateful.

* * *

Mrs. Elizabeth K. Lane, Barrister-at-law, has been appointed Assistant Recorder of Birmingham.

* * *

We hope to welcome two more women M.P.s in the House of Commons, bringing the total up to nineteen. As a result of by-elections, Mrs. Harriet Slater has been elected at Stoke-on-Trent North for the Labour Party; and Mrs. Patricia Ford has been chosen by the Ulster Unionists in North Down to take the place of her father, Sir Walter Smiles, who was drowned in the *Princess Victoria* disaster.

The Alliance has received the twenty-sixth *Annual Report of the Open Door Council* and the Resolutions passed at the Annual Meeting of the Council on November 27th, 1952.

The O.D.C., with which St. Joan's Alliance has co-operated since its beginnings, exists to secure for a woman "freedom to work or be protected as a worker on the same terms as a man" and to secure for her "the right at all times to decide whether or not she shall engage in paid work."

The first Resolution insists that "the regulation of labour should be based on the nature of the work and not on the sex of the worker," and calls upon H.M. Government to make it illegal for associations of employers or workers to prevent women from practising the trade of their choice on the same terms as men.

The second Resolution demands Equal Pay in no uncertain terms.

* * *

We note in the Report of the Forty-seventh Annual Meeting of the Catholic Education Council for England and Wales that for the first time there were present at the meeting representatives of the Convent Schools Association, nominated by the Hierarchy—namely the Rev. Mother Provincial of the Ursulines of the Roman Union, the Rev. Mother Provincial of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, and Rev. Mother Dymphna Fox, F.C.J. The Chairman in welcoming the new members of the Council, remarked that the meeting was historic.

We rejoice that at long last women sit on the Catholic Education Council for England and Wales.

* * *

HON. TREASURER'S NOTE

Many thanks to all those who gave so generously at the Annual General Meeting. The amount, with promises, adds up to £37 12s. 0d.

We are in need of funds to pay for an assistant to help full-time in the Office, so may I please appeal to all those who were unable to attend the Meeting to send us a donation as soon and as large as possible. Also, if anyone would care to continue with the Farthing Fund, we should be most grateful. Last year the Fund brought in about £11. Another suggestion which met with approval was that members might like to send their subscriptions through a Bankers Order payable on January 1st.

One last word. Will those who have not yet paid their subscriptions for 1953 be kind enough to do so as soon as possible.

Noreen K. Carr

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE

AND

Editorial Office of "The Catholic Citizen"

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Signed articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Society

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ex-officio DAME VERA LAUGHTON MATHEWS, D.B.E., *President, St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance*
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 MISS P. A. BARRY, *Hon. Secretary.*
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 MISS CHRISTINE SPENDER, *Hon. Editor,*
"The Catholic Citizen."

The 42nd Annual Meeting

The 42nd Annual Meeting of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance was held at St. Patrick's Club-room, Soho Square, on Saturday, March 21st, 1953, at 2.30 p.m. Despite the bleak day, the meeting was well-attended by members and friends who had come to hear something of the years' activities.

The Chairman, Miss Challoner, opening proceedings, regretted that both the Hon. Mrs. Copland Griffiths and Miss Monica O'Connor, two of the speakers, had been compelled to miss the meeting through illness. She reminded members that at the previous meeting they had been happy to see Canon Reardon. A prayer was said for the repose of the soul of this staunch friend of the Alliance, whose presence was today so greatly missed.

The Hon. Secretary, Miss Barry, presented the Annual Report, which had been circulated to members. She referred to the considerable volume of work which had already been done in connection with the Equal Pay Campaign and the Petition to be presented to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The Alliance had arranged for the petition to be circulated among numerous Convents and already had received over a thousand signatures from Nuns who supported Equal Pay.

Miss Spender then presented her Report as Editor of *The Catholic Citizen*. She supported the written Report by some pithy and amusing remarks which were by no means conducive to slumber as she had predicted—rather, they were indeed the "jam" in which she had wrapped her "pill"—an appeal for further financial assistance for *The Catholic Citizen*, whether by obtaining more advertisements or increasing its circulation. She then expressed her appreciation of the contributions for the past year—stimulating articles including the article by Lady Hills, "Man Today," the Parliamentary Page, always so ably and wittily handled, the reviews written by Dr. Shattock and Miss Eleanor FitzGerald, Miss Douie's Quiz, to name a few. She did not

forget to remind readers of their debt to the translators, Dr. Helen O'Brien, Miss Leslie and Miss Brandt.

The adoption of the Hon. Secretary's Report was moved by Miss Aline Fenwick. When she had attended the last Annual General Meeting, she said, she had thought it would be her last opportunity to do so, but owing to a change of plans she now welcomed the chance to express her admiration of the fine work done by the British Section of the Alliance. Coronation Year was an exciting one for all British countries, but in the midst of our celebrations it was well to pause and think of the tremendous advances made by at least half the Sovereign's subjects since Queen Victoria had occupied the Throne. St. Joan's had contributed enormously to the emancipation of women and was still actively working to correct injustices and secure equality. One section of the report was particularly impressive, namely, the long recital of conferences and meetings attended during the year, for the most part by the same few officers, or on some occasions their delegates or deputies. This was a tremendous work and she thought it significant that the sphere of activity of the Organisation was so great, and its influence so widespread. Miss Fenwick was returning to Australia with a great realisation of the potentialities of St. Joan's and she thought that she and other visiting members who came in contact with the zeal and efficiency of London headquarters must inevitably be persuaded by it into greater devotion and activity in their own national Sections. Mrs. Morgan supported the motion. She regretted that the cares of her home and two small boys prevented her from taking a prominent part in the work of the Alliance, but she hoped that her contribution of "scones for the teas" would be acceptable—and to judge from the plaudits of the meeting it was!

The Financial Report was presented by the Hon. Treasurer, Miss Carr. She paid tribute to Miss Jameson, a generous and indefatigable

voluntary worker. Miss Buckmaster, in moving the adoption of the report, marvelled at the ingenuity with which the funds of the Alliance were made to stretch to cover contingencies at a time, she said, "when we were all pulling hard at both ends without making them meet." A collection taken in the hall amounted to £37 12s. 0d. including promises.

Dame Vera Laughton Mathews, International President, drew attention to the short report of the International work in a characteristically thoughtful and witty speech. She reviewed the work of the Status of Women Committee, of which she is Chairman in this country, recalling its successful effort resulting in Mrs. Castle's amendment to the Criminal Law Amendment Act, a notable victory. She then referred to small yet irritating anomalies still existing—for instance, the necessity for a married woman to obtain a new passport on marriage, and the acceptance of married women only as sponsors for Court presentations. Again, magistrates in a Juvenile Court sitting outside the Metropolitan area must be both men or at least a man and a woman—two women do not constitute a Court. Dame Vera reminded members that one found strange occurrences in unexpected quarters, for instance both Libya and Eritrea had the assistance of U.N. officers in drawing up their recent new constitutions, but in spite of the Charter neither provided for female suffrage. Turning to the International work of the Alliance, she said the great success of the year had been the bringing out into the open field of discussion the difficult question of Female Circumcision, and as a direct result of St. Joan's courageous action, this question had been brought up before both the Status of Women Commission and the Economic and Social Council. She was pleased to say that the U.K. delegate had taken a prominent part in sponsoring the Resolution passed by ECOSOC on the subject. Finally she recalled the happy and successful Council Meeting held in London in September last and announced that the next International Council Meeting would probably be in Paris in September.

The Chairman, Miss Challoner, then spoke of the tremendous volume of office work required to keep the Organisation functioning and well informed. A member had suggested that two full-time paid secretaries were required (Dame Vera in an interpolated amendment to any motion on this subject suggested six), but while this was financially impossible she did implore members to see what could be done about securing more help. Her remarks were given point by Miss Carr, who appealed for more funds—she suggested a Thanksgiving Fund, a thanksgiving for all the improvements in women's status since the Coronation of the last

Queen in 1837, nearly one hundred and twenty years ago. She wondered if anyone would give 120 pounds or 120 shillings or 120 pence—it would all be most welcome. The Chairman then put the resolutions—printed elsewhere—to the Meeting and these were carried unanimously.

The Meeting re-elected the Executive Committee with the addition of Miss Guessard in the place of Miss Mann, who was obliged to resign owing to illness in her family. All the officers of the Alliance were re-elected by the Executive Committee, who thanked Miss Mann for her services.

After the closure of the Meeting, we were all entertained to afternoon tea, and so could exchange news and views. Overseas visitors, included Miss Lachal from Victoria, Miss Hart from Brisbane, and Miss Seaton of New Zealand, who had attended the Pan-Pacific Women's Conference at which St. Joan's was represented last year.

Thanks are due to Miss Hayes, Miss Gadsby and Miss Carr for dispensing refreshments, and to those who made cakes and scones.

The Merseyside Branch sent a telegram of good wishes to the Meeting.

Aline Fenwick

HIS HOLINESS POPE PIUS XII AND EQUAL PAY

August 15th, 1945. Speaking to Italian Catholic women workers:

"If the woman has to work in factory or business then she should with double intensity give husband and children her constant care and love."

"The Church has always held that women should receive the same pay as men for equal work and output. To exploit female labour would injure not only the women but also the working man who would thus risk being out of work."

October 21st, 1945 (Broadcast). While French women were going to the polling stations and Italy was fixing the first general election in which women voted, the Holy Father made an important broadcast beginning: "Your hour, Catholic women, is here. Public life needs you."

"We have already on another occasion pointed out that for the same work and output, a woman is entitled to the same wages as a man."

September 11th, 1947. Speaking to the International Union of Catholic Women's Leagues the Holy Father said:

"A more equitable distribution of riches had always been one of the principle objectives of Catholic social doctrine. We can say the same about the claim to equal pay for equal work and production for women, a claim which the Church has made her own for a long time."

THE MONTH IN PARLIAMENT

The death of Her Majesty Queen Mary was reported to the House by the Prime Minister on March 24th. Addresses of sympathy were delivered by all Parties the following day and the House at once adjourned. Mr. Churchill and Mr. Attlee paid touching tribute to Queen Mary, Mr. Churchill saying that by her personality, her example and her bearing over so many years she had endeared herself to "the whole people of these Islands and throughout the vast regions of the Commonwealth and Empire." Mr. Attlee declared that the "gracious lady" had throughout a long life, fulfilled the duties of her exalted station with grace, with charm and with dignity, and the nation saw in her a devoted wife and a devoted mother who for over sixty years had had a place in the affections of the people. "Indeed I think," said Mr. Attlee, "that there has never been any Queen who was so beloved by everybody, and I think this was because of her wide sympathy and her extraordinary kindness."

During March the Commons worked hard and late. For the most part they debated matters of Supply, but among other important matters dealt with were the Iron and Steel Bill, the Royal Titles Bill and Central African Federation, which last was debated with profound sincerity and considerable heat on March 24th, when an amendment expressing lack of confidence in the Proposals' safeguards of African interests was rejected by a majority of only 44 on a very full vote (304-260). As Sir Lynn Ungoed-Thomas said during the debate, it is quite possible to hold, most sincerely, deeply different views on this subject. There was practically no difference of opinion on the end desired, the doubts concerned, the means suggested, and, as the House realised, a most important decision was taken, whose results time alone will show.

On March 6th, Dr. Summerskill spoke movingly in favour of improved facilities for treating old people. As she said at one stage: "For the most part they live alone, or are cared for by a spinster daughter who contrives to combine her job outside the home with looking after her father or mother, or by a married daughter already overburdened with family responsibilities. . . . It is a constant source of wonder to those of us who are in contact with these households why the rest of the family are prepared to accept the sacrifices of one daughter, but always claim the right of criticism, particularly at the end."

There was a rather confused passage of arms over Equal Pay on March 17th. Miss Ward asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer: "In view of the fact that the wages of women in industry have risen at the last convenient date in greater proportion than men's, but women's rates in the

civil service, the teaching profession and local government service have not risen in equal proportions, what steps he is taking to ensure that rising charges do not impose a heavier burden on women in the latter categories." Mr. Butler replied: "Although in 1952 women's wages in industry increased, on average, more than men's, the differentials between the wages of men and women are still generally greater in industry than in national and local government and in the teaching profession. No such special steps as my hon. Friend suggests are, therefore, called for." Miss Ward pursued: "May I ask my right hon. Friend why the increases in coal and transport charges should be borne in greater measure by women in his employ than by men? Is it not about time he did something for his own employees, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, and followed the good lead given by private industry?" Mr. Butler's reply to this was: "In fact, as I have tried to indicate in my answer, the incidence of this difference is exactly the other way round."

The difference, as Mr. Butler says, may still be the other way round, but at least industry would appear to be moving towards equality while the Government would appear to be congratulating itself on standing still.

A pleasing fact came up on March 19th when Mr. Janner asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department: "How many local authorities in the country ban the employment of police-women?" Sir D. Maxwell Fyfe answered: "There are now no police forces in England and Wales which do not have an authorised establishment of policewomen." What, one wonders, is the position in Scotland and Northern Ireland?

A charming theological discussion arose during the debate on the Royal Titles Bill. Mr. Leslie Hale said: "I regret to see the words Defender of the Faith (in the Royal Title). I regret that. Her Majesty is the head of a very great Commonwealth of which the overwhelming majority of inhabitants are not Christians, let alone members of the Church of England." Whereupon Mr. Ede broke in: "The title 'Defender of the Faith' was not bestowed upon Henry VIII for anything he did for the Church of England." Mr. Hale became dogmatic: "The title 'Defender of the Faith' was not bestowed upon Henry VIII at all. It was taken by him at the time when he quarrelled with the Pope." This was too much for Mr. Gordon Walker, historically if not theologically, and he put in: "That is not accurate. The title was conferred on Henry VIII by the Pope for a treatise against heretical errors." "I accept that correction," said Mr. Hale, unabashed, "That is correct, but at the same time, it was carried on after the split. . . ."

I hope that we shall at some time devise a form of words much more acceptable to the varied collection of religious beliefs in this great Commonwealth." Rash though some of his statements may be, I feel we might agree with Mr. Hale in this hope.

B. M. Halpern

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

I.L.O. Representatives of the Governments, employers and workers of twenty-two countries met at Geneva recently for the fourth session of the International Labour Organisation's Textiles Committee.

By a vote of 82 to 20, with two abstentions, the Committee approved a series of recommendations relating to women's employment in the industry.

The recommendations were embodied in a memorandum which said it was desirable to provide, by legislation, collective agreements or other appropriate means, a series of measures to safeguard the health of women workers. The suggested measures included maternity protection, particularly in respect of maternity leave, maternity benefits, facilities for nursing mothers and infants, protection against employment on heavy work or other work which may be prejudicial to health, the abolition of night work, factory welfare facilities, and social services such as canteens, creches, school meals, home aid services, transport facilities, welfare committees in mills, and women welfare officers.

The memorandum also dealt with vocational training and opportunities for promotion. The Committee said it was, "in general, in agreement with the principle of equal remuneration for work of equal value for men and women workers." It added that "in each country when it is accepted by the parties concerned that existing differences between men's and women's wage rates are not justified it is desirable that the parties should examine methods which would reduce these differences."

The Committee's conclusions would be examined by the ILO's Governing Body at its next session in March.

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Canada. In Saskatchewan, an Equal Pay Act came into effect on January 1st. According to this Act: "No employer and no person acting on his behalf shall discriminate between his male and female employees by paying a female employee at a rate of pay less than the rate of pay paid to a male employee employed by him for work of a comparable character done in the same establishment." — *International Woman Co-operator.*

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Holland. Miss A. de Waal, a member of the Catholic People's Party, has been appointed Secretary of State to the Board of Education. She

is the first woman to hold an appointment in the Netherlands Government.

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Switzerland. In November, 1952, the women of Geneva took part in a poll to discover whether they wanted the suffrage (see *The Catholic Citizen*, December, 1952). *Die Schweizerin* quotes in this connection the "personal opinion" expressed by Mgr. Petit, Vicar General for the Geneva section of the Diocese of Lausanne, Geneva and Freiburg. He says: "Catholic women should vote in a great majority for a right that sooner or later will be added to the rights women have gained in the course of centuries, each of which represents a step forward."

* * *

U.S.A. A survey on "Women in the Public Service," prepared by the women's division of the Republican Party shows that the record number of 285 American women are serving this year in State Legislatures—forty-nine more than last year. Only four States, i.e., Alabama, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Virginia have no women in their Legislatures.

Mrs. Consuelo N. Bailey is the second woman to be named Speaker of a State House of Representatives, that of Vermont.

REVIEWS

Sudan Story. By John Hyslop. (Naldrett Press, 7s. 6d.)

In this book, written to describe the development of the Sudanese under their British advisers, the author, who has lived in the country and visited it often, calls this development one of the miracles of the Nile. At the same time he speaks of the "practice of a barbarous form of female circumcision" which is a "bar to progress in the North;" which precludes the full and proper social development of the women and creates in them a submissive attitude and a corresponding cruel, masterful tendency in the men. He quotes Major-General Sir Hubert Huddleston who was Governor-General until 1947 as saying: "I know that there can be no real and balanced progress for the Sudanese people until this practice is abolished. A carriage cannot be drawn by two horses at a smooth and rapid speed if one is lame and lags behind."

Plain words from men who love and admire the Sudanese will surely impress that quick and intelligent people and aid the forces of enlightenment which are already at work. P.C.C.

The I.L.O. and Women. (International Labour Office, Geneva.)

This pamphlet published by the I.L.O., "describes the International Labour Organisation's work for women." It lists the Conventions passed by the Conferences of Governments,

(Reviews—continued)

Employers and Workers since 1919 "to establish international standards that are equally applicable to men and women." Some of these have clauses which apply to women only and there are seven women's Conventions dealing with maternity protection, night work, underground work and equal remuneration.

Elsewhere in this issue the Alliance has quoted the resolution of the Open Door Council on protective legislation with which it is in full agreement. *All* workers should be protected against dangers in industry, men no less than women.

The pamphlet claims that the I.L.O. programme is aimed at helping women to attain equal opportunities in employment, by providing for their "special needs." In the early Factory Acts women were bracketed with "young persons"; later the I.L.O. claimed to save them from "exploitation", by special laws, now it claims to help them to equality by provisions for their special needs. The Alliance claims that equal opportunities for apprenticeship and for vocational and technical training, will give women that freedom of choice which is their right as adult human beings and the best protection of their interests. For example, legal restrictions on night work are frequently deleterious to their earning capacity.

The Alliance believes that, while no married woman should be forced to work outside her home by economic necessity, neither should she be prevented by law from exercising her right to do so.

P. C. Challoner

BOOK RECEIVED

I Believed. The Autobiography of a former British Communist. By Douglas Hyde. (Pan Books, 2s. 6d)

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