

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

St. Joan's International Council Meeting Brussels 1958

The Fifteenth Council Meeting of St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance was held in Brussels on September 27th and 29th, at the headquarters of the Auxiliaires Féminines Internationales Catholiques.

On the morning of Saturday, September 27th, Mass was offered for the Alliance and delegates were then free to visit the Exhibition.

In the afternoon the President, Dame Vera Laughton Mathews, opened the Council Meeting and welcomed the delegates.

The following were present for all or part of the meetings, Vice-Presidents: Madame Pesson-Depret (France), Dr. Maria Schlüter-Hermkes (Germany), Madame Leroy-Boy (Belgium), and Miss P. C. Challoner (United Kingdom); Officers: Madame Gouffé, Hon. Treasurer, who is also President of the French Section and Miss F. Barry, Hon. Secretary. Mlle. Delaval also came from the French Section. It was good to meet our Belgian colleagues, Mademoiselle Baetens and Madame Pelsener; from Germany we were glad to welcome Dr. Bardenhewer, and from Holland two new delegates, Miss Geraedts and Miss Stollman. There were no less than four Australian delegates, Miss Poolman and Miss D. Sexton from Victoria, Miss Elizabeth Cape from New South Wales and Miss A. Chesson from Western Australia. Miss Fahie from Ireland, nobly took the minutes. Dr. Shattock led the delegation from the United Kingdom, which included Miss Carr, Miss Price and Miss Spender.

Messages were read from Frau Brauksiepe (Germany), Professor G. P. McEntee (U.S.A.), Miss Margaret Flynn and Officers of the Australian Sections, Dr. Marga Klompé (Holland), The Hon. Mabel Strickland (Malta) and friends in Spain. The message from the Transvaal, unfortunately, arrived after the Council Meeting had closed.

Greetings were sent to Mademoiselle Lenoël, first vice-president, and to our absent colleagues.

Delegates reported on the work of their National Sections, while Mademoiselle Baetens commented on the new Family Law in Belgium, and Dr. Bardenhewer on that in Germany; Madame Leroy reported on the Congress of the Institut International des Civilisations Différentes, held in Brussels, which she had attended on behalf of the Alliance. (An account of this appears on page 68).

After reaffirmation of resolutions passed at former Conferences, discussion took place on the new resolutions: on Marriage; Ritual Operations; Age of Retirement and Right to Pensions; and Discrimination in the Field of Employment and Occupation. The final resolution paid proud tribute to Mrs. Tenison Woods.

Consultants with the United Nations and representatives on the Liaison and other Committees were then appointed.

Miss Spender, Editor of *The Catholic Citizen*, reported on the growing circulation of the paper, especially in Australia, and she begged, once again, for news to be sent from National Sections in a form ready for publication. A new propaganda leaflet was handed round the Meeting and orders taken from the various Sections.

The three French delegates arrived only on the second day, having come straight from recording their votes in the French Referendum and, to our great delight, Dr. Schlüter-Hermkes, who was unable to join us earlier on account of her attendance at a Board Meeting of UNESCO, came for a short time and reported on progress in UNESCO regarding women's and girls' education.

The Hon. Secretary then presented her Report, which dealt with the work of the Alliance with the Status of Women Commission; Human Rights; I.L.O.; W.H.O.; UNESCO, and the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organizations, and various domestic matters.

The Meeting framed a protest to the World Health Organization against a statement in their

official journal, *World Health* concerning the repercussions of the closing of brothels and the spread of venereal disease.

The Council found it heartening that the points dealt with in the resolutions passed at last year's Council Meeting concerning marriage and ritual operations were incorporated in the resolutions passed by the Twelfth Session of the Status of Women Commission. A warm tribute was paid to Miss Challoner for her work in this connection at Geneva.

Gratitude was expressed to our representatives at the United Nations in New York—Mrs. Grabinska, Miss McGillicuddy and Dr. de Spur, and to Mademoiselle Archinard, who represented the Alliance in Geneva.

Madame Gouffé presented the Financial Report and made an eloquent appeal for funds, which received a generous response from those present.

The present officers of the Alliance were then re-elected with acclamation. The President and Hon. Secretary made an earnest plea for new officers to replace them at the next Council Meeting.

It was suggested that the next Council Meeting should be held in Geneva at the time of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations interested in the Eradication of Prejudice and Discrimination.

After the Council Meeting, under the guidance of Madame Massion, delegates made an official visit to the Missionary Pavilion in the Exhibition and had the pleasure of speaking to some of the men and women from the Congo.

* * *

Delegates to the Council Meeting were guests at two delightful parties during their stay in Brussels. At the first, the guests were presented by their hostess, Mademoiselle Baetens to her mother who was, as she herself said, for the first time an "invitée" in her own house. A charming and vigorous lady of eighty-two, she helped to entertain her daughter's guests and showed some of the treasures in her beautiful apartment, including very interesting pictures.

Mademoiselle Baetens introduced the delegates to some of the leading Catholic women of Brussels, amongst whom we were pleased to meet again Mademoiselle van den Heuvel, the Echevin of Brussels who, by virtue of her office, presides over the civil marriages which take place in the Town Hall. Dr. Shattock gave a brief resumé of the work of the Alliance, particularly that for African women, and Dame Vera, in thanking our hostess and her mother, expressed the great pleasure such a happy reunion had given the delegates.

The other party took place on the last night of our stay, at another charming apartment, which was reached in a downpour of rain, at the same time as the six women from the Congo whom we

were asked to meet. We were greeted by our hostesses, Madame Massion and Madame Leroy. Our good friend, l'Abbé Massion, introduced the visitors from the Congo, two nuns, three young women (two ex-nurses now married and one teacher) and not least Mama Elisabeth an older social worker. Mademoiselle Leblanc, a young Auxiliaire who is professor of psychology at the University of Lovanium, Léopoldville joined the party.

Dame Vera spoke briefly of the work of the Alliance and said how anxious we were to understand the problems of African women and to help where we could. Then one of the young women read a paper which left us in no doubt as to the aspirations of the Congo women for opportunities of higher education. Another put her finger on the spot when she said that they wanted the "programme" of education to be the same for boys and girls—and a paper read by a young nun, who is *directrice* of a girls' school greatly strengthened this plea. The youngest girl spoke with humour of what the *jeune fille congolaise* dreams of—the husband to be and the home she plans.

It was an occasion to remember, for we heard in these voices from the Congo the same aspirations and discontents that filled so many young lives in European countries not so long ago, and we trust that the authorities, ecclesiastical as well as governmental, will heed the cry that goes up from women the world over for equal opportunities in education and equal status with their men.

TWENTY FIVE YEARS AGO

From "*The Catholic Citizen*", October 15th, 1933

TO OUR READERS

We wonder whether those who read *The Catholic Citizen* every month are aware that it should be self-supporting. At the present moment we have a debt on the paper, and that this valuable organ of our Society should be thus hampered is serious again.

We get letters in praise of the *Catholic Citizen* from many parts of the world, and we would suggest various ways in which admirers could help to increase its circulation.

The first and most obvious way is to obtain new subscribers. Subscribers need not necessarily be Catholics, though since the *Catholic Citizen* is a splendid advertisement of the work done by our Society, Catholic subscribers very often end by joining us. Secondly, if our friends are unwilling to subscribe for themselves, they may know of a priest or nun or other person who would be interested in the paper, in which case they could subscribe for these instead. Later, certain of their protégés will take out their own subscriptions and sometimes they will like to join St. Joan's. Many valuable members have been gained to the Society in this manner.—C.S.

Notes and Comments

As we go to press news has come of the death of our Holy Father, Pope Pius XII. Our next issue will pay homage to so good and great a Pope whose loss the whole world mourns. May He rest in peace.

The Annual Mass for deceased members, associates and benefactors of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance will be offered on Sunday, November 2nd at 6 p.m. at St. Patrick's, Soho Square. As it is evening Mass, we hope that many members will be able to attend and, for those who wish it, a meal in Soho afterwards can be arranged.

* * *

The "Human Rights" issue of *Catholic International Outlook*, published by the Sword of the Spirit, announces that on Friday, October 24th, United Nations Day, His Grace the Archbishop of Westminster will assist at the evening Mass at 6 p.m. in Westminster Cathedral at which the special preacher will be the Rev. Joseph Christie, S.J. Members of the Alliance are asked to attend.

In this issue there is an interesting article on the Status of Women, as illustrating one aspect of Human Rights, by Phyllis C. Challoner.

* * *

Some members of the Alliance had the unexpected pleasure of finding themselves with Her Royal Highness, Princess Margaret, at the principal Museum in Bruges, on her recent visit to Belgium. One member was near enough to say: "God bless your Royal Highness," to which greeting she returned a very sweet smile.

* * *

Mrs. Alison Munro, who joined the Ministry of Civil Aviation in 1945 has been chosen by the Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation for one of the top posts in the department, that of Under-Secretary of the Air Services and Civil Aviation International Relations group. Hitherto she has been successively in charge of an Air Services Division and the Railways and Inland Waterways Division.

* * *

At the Twenty-seventh General Assembly of Interpol (International Criminal Police Organisation) which opened in London on September 15th, the British delegation presented a report on the recruitment and employment of women police. The delegation, appropriately included Miss B. Denise de Vitre, assistant inspector of constabulary at the Home Office, who is the first woman to attend a Conference of Interpol.

We draw the attention of readers to the resolution (page 70) passed by St. Joan's International Council Meeting in Brussels, on the retirement of Mrs. Tenison Woods. We wish her all happiness in her retirement and in new spheres of activity.

* * *

We hope our readers will study: "Twenty-five Years Ago" with care this month, for the plea it contains is just as applicable today as it was at that time.

CHRISTMAS SALE

The Christmas Sale will be held on Saturday, November 22nd, at St. Patrick's Clubroom, Soho Square (12—5.30). Lunches and teas at reasonable prices will be available. Offers of help on the day, either with the stalls or with the refreshments will be welcomed. Please let us know as soon as possible what help you are able to give us in this way.

Will you also be kind enough to send your goods for sale to the office after November 3rd. The goods required are the following: Toilet requisites, stationery, groceries, confectionery, dolls, toys, handkerchiefs, scarves, baby clothes and knitted garments. Please no second-hand clothes.

The office will appreciate it if all goods are clearly marked with the price.

Noreen K. Carr
Hon. Treasurer

MERSEYSIDE BRANCH

Hon. Secretary: Miss M. C. Brady,
19 Fairfield Street, Liverpool 7

Many members of the Branch attended Mass for the repose of the soul of Mrs. McCann at St. Philip Neri's Church, Catherine Street, Liverpool. Her daughter Mrs. Earle and Miss E. Barry representing Miss F. A. Barry, Hon. Secretary of St. Joan's Alliance Headquarters, were among those present.

A meeting of the Branch was held afterwards at Atlantic House by kind permission of Fr. O'Connor to elect a new Chairman. Miss Frances A. Keeley, B.A., Vice-Chairman was unanimously elected Chairman. Miss Mary Borg consented to act as Hon. Treasurer in succession to Mrs. J. Brady, whom we take this opportunity of thanking for her past work. Miss M. C. Brady and Mrs. Ruddy were appointed delegates to the Standing Conference of Women's Organisations.

Discussion then took place on the future programme of the Branch and it was agreed to hold another meeting early in December.

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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Le Rôle de la Femme dans le Développement des pays Tropicaux et Sub-Tropicaux

Du 17 au 20 Septembre s'est tenue à Bruxelles la 31^e session d'études de l'Institut International des Civilisations Différentes, "INCIDI", dont le but est l'étude des problèmes soulevés par l'évolution des peuples de civilisation différentes et la recherche des facteurs de rapprochement entre eux.

Le thème choisi pour cette session: "le rôle de la femme dans le développement des pays tropicaux et subtropicaux" avait amené une participation inhabituelle aux travaux de l'INCIDI, ainsi que la présence de nombreuses personnes originaires des pays en question.

Le roi Léopold III président d'honneur, ouvrit la session et reçut tous les participants au Palais de Laeken; d'autres réceptions se déroulèrent agréablement à l'Hôtel de Ville de Bruxelles, et au Pavillon du Congo à l'Exposition.

Les séances d'études furent consacrées à la discussion des conclusions de quatre rapports généraux, envoyés au préalable à tous les congressistes, avec vingt-cinq rapports sur des pays particuliers dont les rapports généraux devaient constituer une synthèse. Le Président Sohier avait traité l'aspect juridique du problème, Mme. Lefauchaux l'aspect social et culturel, Mrs. Shukry, l'aspect politique, et Sir Alexander Carr-Saunders, l'aspect économique. Les auteurs des vingt-cinq rapports spéciaux étaient presque tous des nationaux des pays en cause, des femmes le plus souvent. Bien que de valeur inégale, toutes ces études constituent néanmoins une documentation fort intéressante.

La conclusion générale réfléchit bien l'allure générale des débats. L'accent fut mis sans cesse sur la nécessité de hâter l'évolution féminine en développant l'éducation de base; on souligna

toutefois la nécessité de toujours assurer la solidité de l'association entre le père et la mère dans le cadre de la cellule familiale au sens étroit de l'expression.

Seules quelques modifications de détail furent apportées aux conclusions juridiques de M. Sohier. Elles indiquent comment concilier les nouvelles législations concernant la promotion féminine avec le respect des droits locaux et des coutumes qui demeurent favorables au rôle nouveau que l'on désire voir jouer à la femme. La 5^e cinquième conclusion: "des mesures d'organisation de la dot clanique viseront en ordre principal à en assurer le bénéfice au nouveau ménage lui-même" est d'une grande importance.

Quatre conclusions qui, reprises du rapport de Mme. Lefauchaux, furent ajoutées aux conclusions de M. Sohier, à cause de leur caractère juridique plus que culturel, rencontrèrent davantage d'opposition.

Si, en effet, l'unanimité était complète sur la nécessité d'une élévation de la condition féminine parce qu'elle influence l'évolution du milieu, l'unanimité cessa lorsqu'il s'agit de définir le sens et la portée de cette élévation. On admit l'opportunité de conférer des droits personnels à la femme mais a posé aussitôt la question cruciale: "quel est le vrai rôle de la femme?" ainsi qu'une deuxième question qui indique bien dans quel sens il fut répondu à la première: "la promotion de la femme ne va-t-elle pas l'écarter de la famille?" . . .

Inutile de dire que Mme. Lefauchaux défendit brillamment ses positions; ses points de vue furent également soutenus avec force par Soeur Marie André du Sacré Coeur, par quelques militantes des mouvements féminins, et aussi, ce qui était

très important, par quelques unes de ces personnes hommes et femmes, venus des pays envisagés.

Certes, Mme. Lefauchaux obtint l'appui unanime de l'assemblée pour des réformes aussi capitales que la fixation d'un âge minimum pour le mariage, le libre consentement des deux époux, formulé personnellement et publiquement, en présence d'une personnalité habilitée à enregistrer le mariage, constaté dans un acte authentique d'état-civil, ou encore l'octroi aux deux parents des droits sur leurs enfants, de la qualité de tutrice aux mères; 'on proclama également la liberté du conjoint survivant ainsi que la nécessité d'une décision judiciaire en cas de séparation. Cependant, la résolution sur l'égalité des devoirs et des droits des époux fut sérieusement édulcorée et l'interdiction de la polygamie curieusement escamotée.

Les conclusions sur l'aspect social et culturel du problème furent adoptées sans modifications majeures. Il y eut insisté sur les droits égaux de tous les enfants à recevoir la même instruction, sur le devoir des parents à l'égard de l'instruction de leurs filles, sur l'appui qu'il convient d'accorder aux associations féminines et familiales et sur la responsabilité des femmes plus évoluées envers leurs soeurs moins privilégiées. Une résolution visant à la suppression des opérations rituelles et de toute réglementation de la prostitution ne rencontra aucune opposition.

L'assemblée ratifia aussi à l'unanimité l'octroi de tous les droits politiques aux femmes, en insistant sur la nécessité d'une sérieuse éducation civique, ce que nous ne saurions blâmer.

Quant aux conclusions économique de Sir Alexander, elles réclament notamment des réformes permettant "l'accès plus vaste des femmes à la vie économique", ce qui apporterait "une contribution de premier plan à la lutte contre la pauvreté." L'assemblée crut cependant opportun d'ajouter à ses conclusions fort acceptables, quelques recommandations marquant des nuances dans l'évolution économique du statut de la femme. L'égalité de salaires fut entérinée mais nos interventions ne purent éviter que l'on trouvât "souhaitable que dans ses travaux, la femme soit en sa qualité de mère protégée par des législations appropriées." On adopta également, malgré une forte opposition, une recommandation assez confuse sur la planification familiale, ce qui, de l'avis de beaucoup, était hors du sujet.

Dans leur ensemble, les travaux de l'INCIDI peuvent certainement être considérés comme satisfaisants, car ils auront sûrement fait avancer la cause de l'évolution féminine dans l'esprit de nombreuses personnes qui ont été appelées à se pencher sur des questions dont elles n'avaient peut être jamais soupçonné l'existence. Nous regrettons leur "prudence" sur certains points, mais nous

devons nous réjouir de la compréhension qu'elles ont ainsi montrée du problème qui avait été lumineusement posé par le secrétaire général de l'Institut dans son discours d'ouverture.

Après avoir souligné que l'évolution des civilisations était une conséquence du développement industriel, Mr. Wigny avait démontré que c'est l'évolution de tout le peuple qui est retardée lorsque l'éducation féminine est négligée. "Sans même chercher à examiner la question du travail professionnel féminin en dehors du foyer" a-t-il dit, simplement "en acceptant que beaucoup de femmes se consacrent exclusivement aux occupations ménagères, on doit admettre que négliger ainsi la formation de la moitié du genre humain est un étonnant gaspillage: non seulement on empêche les femmes d'apporter au progrès toute la contribution dont elles sont capables mais aussi on détend un des ressorts les plus puissants de l'évolution spirituelle."

Magdeleine Leroy-Boy

GREETINGS CARD

The Alliance has pleasure in announcing a special greetings card of St. Joan for sale. The design, the result of a competition set by the New South Wales Section of the Alliance and won by Diana Martin of Sydney, is suitable for any occasion. The card can be obtained from the London office at 5d. each (with envelope) or 4s. 6d. a dozen (5s. including postage). If ordering by post, please send money to cover postage.

HERE AND THERE

Sir Hugh Beaver, president of the Federation of British Industries, speaking yesterday in Newcastle upon Tyne at the annual meeting of the Northern Regional Council of the federation said that British industry must seriously consider how it can best make use of the vast potential of women scientists and technologists. He said that the United States and the Soviet Union were, proportionately, training twice as many scientists as were. He added:

"It is vital that we should develop our technical and scientific potential much more. Industry must ponder the extent to which it can make use of the female potential of scientists and technologists. There is no doubt that the industry as a whole in this country has completely failed to find the means of using this great new reservoir. Of all engineering graduates in Russia women graduates exceed men. In my own Institution of Civil Engineers we proudly boast one woman corporate member. We have a lot to learn." — *The Manchester Guardian.*

RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE 15TH COUNCIL MEETING OF ST. JOAN'S INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE, BRUSSELS, 1958

Political Rights

St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance calls upon those Governments which have not yet granted equal franchise and eligibility to women with men to do so without delay.

Marriage

St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance believes that the Sacrament of Marriage entails an indissoluble monogamous union entered into with the full consent of both parties; with a full sense of responsibility and without the intention to restrict procreation by artificial means.

- (a) It demands that those laws which still impose a measure of civil incapacity upon the wife and married mother shall be rescinded.
- (i) A married woman should have the same rights as other citizens—
 - (a) regarding nationality and domicile;
 - (b) to contract, earn and to exercise rights over her own earnings and property.
 - (ii) A married woman should exercise equal rights with her husband over the children born of their marriage.
 - (iii) There should be no legal bar to a married woman undertaking work outside the home.
 - (iv) The economic status of the housewife should be raised. It should be legally recognized that husband and wife are partners, and each of them is entitled to share in the family income.
- (b) St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance welcomes the Resolution of the Status of Women Commission which "considers that it may be appropriate to prescribe desirable standards of marriage by means of an international instrument under the auspices of the United Nations, which would establish a minimum age of marriage, preferably of not less than sixteen years; the requirement of the free consent of both parties to the marriage; and compulsory registration of marriages", and invites the Secretary-General to prepare for the Fourteenth Session of the Commission on the Status of Women a Draft Convention dealing with these three questions on the lines indicated above.

The Alliance regrets that the Economic and Social Council has proposed a Recommendation instead of a Convention and that in the Recommendation the words "preferably not less than sixteen years" have been deleted. The Alliance trusts that these words will be reinserted when the Draft Recommendation is under consideration.

Maintenance

St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance urges Governments to alter their legal systems where necessary in order to make it possible for them to sign the United Nations Convention on the Recovery Abroad of Maintenance, adopted in June, 1956.

Ritual Operations

St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance expresses its satisfaction that the Economic and Social Council has adopted the Resolution of the Status of Women Commission and has invited the World Health Organization to undertake a study of the persistence of customs which subject girls to ritual operations, and of the measures adopted or planned for putting a stop to such practices. It looks forward to the results of this study which are to be communicated to the Status of Women Commission before the end of 1960, for examination at its Fifteenth Session.

Equal Moral Standard

(a) In reaffirming its belief in the same high moral standard for both sexes, St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance deplors the fact that the pernicious system of State regulation of prostitution persists in many

countries. It calls upon its National Sections to urge their Governments to ratify the Convention on the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others.

(b) St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance reaffirms its belief that laws to safeguard public order should apply equally to men and women and that all measures taken to prevent the spread of venereal disease should be free, voluntary and confidential.

Equal Pay and Opportunities

St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance calls upon National Sections to urge their Governments and all appropriate bodies to ensure as rapidly as possible the application of the principle of equal pay for equal work without discrimination based on sex.

It further urges National Sections to press for equal opportunities for education; for vocational and technical training for employment and promotion; also to ensure that any Government requests for assistance from the United Nations and the specialised agencies shall be for women equally with men.

It further urges that in all labour legislation equal protection shall be given to men and women against exploitation, industrial accident or disease.

The Alliance welcomes the I.L.O. Convention by which States Members undertake to "declare and pursue a national policy with a view to eliminating any discrimination in respect of employment and occupation."

It further expresses its satisfaction that Article 6 has been deleted, thus listing unequal remuneration for men and women workers with the discriminations to be eliminated by the Convention, but regrets that in Article 5, sex is retained as one of the categories for which special measures of protection "shall not be deemed to be discrimination."

Age of Retirement and Right to Pension

St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance welcomes the Resolution of the Status of Women Commission which recommended that all States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies should facilitate "the equal treatment of men and women workers with respect to pension plans, and the implementation of the principle that the normal retirement age and pensionable age should be the same for men and women."

The Alliance regrets that the Economic and Social Council has not endorsed this Recommendation but has referred the matter back to the Commission for further study.

Education

(1) St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance reaffirms its belief that education should be based on religious and spiritual values.

(2) The Alliance urges all Governments and also Administering Authorities in Non-Self-Governing or Trust Territories, to ensure that in all schemes of education, equal opportunities shall be available for boys and girls, men and women, irrespective of religion or race.

Mary Tenison Woods

On the occasion of the retirement of Mrs. Tenison Woods from the office of Chief of the Section on the Status of Women, United Nations, which she has held with such distinction for the past eight years, St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance wishes to place on record its appreciation of her outstanding services and to congratulate her on the fruitful results of the work of the Commission during this period.

The Alliance is proud to record that Mrs. Tenison Woods has been a member for twelve years and that she was one of the founders of the New South Wales Section of the Alliance.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

Guinea. The Government has established seventeen years as the legal minimum age of marriage for a girl. The law declares that the consent of both spouses is indispensable to the validity of a marriage; that a marriage contract is null and void where the girl is under the legal age of seventeen or where her consent is not given; and assigns penalties for anyone who either gives in marriage or marries, a girl who is under the age of seventeen or who withholds her consent.

* * *

Holland. An article in *Endeavour* describes the plight of those families who have returned to the Netherlands since the end of the war, either voluntarily or on orders of the Indonesian Government.

The resettlement of those who have left Indonesia since 1957, some 46,000, including Indonesian wives of Dutchmen, people who have spent their lives in Indonesia, and others who have never recognised the new Indonesian Government, is under the care of the Minister of Social Welfare, Dr. Marga A. M. Klompé. The writer says: "Once again this most energetic woman has shown herself to be an excellent organiser as well as the right woman in the right place who never forgets the human beings behind the figures."

The Government of the Netherlands, has, after debate on proposed changes in the Public Education Act, agreed to drop from the law altogether, any regulations concerning women teachers who get married. Teachers in Government service therefore, like civil servants after last year's amendment to the General Civil Servant Regulations, may continue to work after marriage—though those in the service of the Municipalities have no such guarantee.

* * *

South Africa. Our members in the Transvaal tell us of a "terrible blow" aimed at women in the Public Service. From October 1st, 1958, new salary scales are being introduced which discriminate against women right through the service, even in those grades which have up to now enjoyed equality, the only exception being Medical Officers.

Seven hundred members of the Public Servants' Association met in Pretoria to express their "alarm and disappointment", and our correspondent adds—"we have decided that we shall have to fight to gain the ground lost before all else—the men in the Association support us whole-heartedly." The press is widely in favour of the women's claim.

* * *

Western Australia. The *Dawn* Newsletter reports the good news of the closing by August 17th of the brothels in Roe St. Perth, which although illegal have hitherto been unofficially condoned.

We understand from the same paper that the League of Women Voters has achieved an amendment to the Matrimonial Causes Bill, by which the Courts may now order an increase in payments of alimony. These payments once adjudicated, were previously not legally subject to change.

The same body has drawn attention to the anomaly by which men only are admitted to the Levées held throughout the Commonwealth on the Queen's Birthday, and that this custom arose when the King received the congratulations of his subjects in his bed-chamber while dressing for the day. Perhaps the custom should now be reversed and only women admitted to Her Majesty's Levées!

* * *

UNESCO. UNESCO envisages a programme to facilitate the access of girls and women to education during 1959-60. This year it will prepare a report on the access of women to the teaching profession (for 1959); on the access of women to out-of-school education (for 1960) and for 1961 it will study one aspect of this latter question—either the rôle of women in the education of the worker or basic civic instruction for women.

UNESCO is also undertaking a series of studies on the conditions under which women and girls of tropical Africa best respond to the new social and economic situation and it intends to produce an illustrated popular pamphlet discussing the means of improving the status of women.

In the consideration of Social Sciences UNESCO proposes a study under Human Rights to discover what are the social factors which are at the root of discriminations against women in matters of education and employment.

THE I.L.O. AND WOMEN

(*International Labour Organisation, Geneva*)

This new pamphlet stresses the importance to women, as to men, of the I.L.O.'s desire "to build a world in which all human beings shall enjoy lives of freedom and dignity, of economic security and equal opportunity", and at the same time reiterates that "protection" of women was included in the responsibilities of the I.L.O. when its Constitution was first drawn up in 1919. In the attempt to reconcile these two aims the I.L.O. is led to the specious argument that "so long as the special needs of women are not provided for, women will have neither equal opportunity with men in employment nor the same on-the-job possibilities as men."

The pamphlet recognises that as methods have changed, the need for protection has shifted its ground but the view is still put forward that measures "which safeguard women from the

special forms of exploitation to which they, as women, are liable, tend to produce equality of treatment." Once more the seven Conventions concerning women are put forward as a relatively small number owing to the I.L.O.'s conviction that the interests of women as workers are similar to those of men. The Conventions are familiar to our readers—three forbid night work to women, one forbids them to work underground, one deals with equal remuneration on the basis of "job appraisal" and two with maternity protection. The night-work Conventions have shown a steady trend towards removing restrictions—but the I.L.O. has not yet reached the logical conclusion that women should be free to consult their own and their families' interests in the work they do.

The pamphlet recognises that Equal Pay depends on equal opportunity for vocational training and employment—and quotes the Recommendation on Equal Pay: "Measures should be taken to promote equal access of men and women to jobs", but these are to be "consistent with . . . laws protecting the health and welfare of the woman worker." It is agreed that automation will result in "shorter hours and safer working conditions."

The Maternity Convention (revised) requires a woman to stop work for at least twelve weeks at the time of her confinement and six weeks of this, at least, must follow the birth of the child. The Alliance believes maternity leave should be, like other incapacities for work, granted on a doctor's certificate—and that other amenities should be provided by social services and not be demanded from the employer as this will inevitably prejudice the woman's chance of employment.

The I.L.O. is moving towards the policy of the Alliance—that women and men shall be free to decide on the work they do, and shall be equally protected against the dangers of their employment, irrespective of sex.

P. C. Challoner

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