

WOMEN'S SERVICE

FILE COPY

TO BE TAKEN AWAY

THE

Catholic Citizen

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

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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.

"Nought that is Joyless can Endure"

There was a pleasant element of spontaneity and cheerfulness at the lunch to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the CATHOLIC CITIZEN, which took place at Pinoli's Restaurant on January 15th. Nearly a hundred people were present and the room was decorated by our historic banners, the old Catholic Woman's Suffrage Society banner and that other one which brings a very gallant St. Joan on horseback into our company.

At the high table, the place of Miss Christine Spender, editor of the CATHOLIC CITIZEN, was marked by lovely spring flowers given to her by her fellow members of the London, Liverpool and Oldham Branches of the Alliance. After Canon Reardon had said grace and prayer for the Pope, Mrs. Laughton Mathews, formerly chairman of the Alliance and now director of the W.R.N.S., who presided, spoke of her pleasure at finding herself once more among her feminist friends. She alluded to the coincidence that the CATHOLIC CITIZEN was born and celebrated its Silver Jubilee in time of war. Our most ardent pacifists, she said, would admit that the paper had never been an upholder of peace at any price and its attitude had always been uncompromising when principle was at stake. From its start, it had interpreted feminism to Catholics and Catholicism to feminists and it had often prevented ill-founded charges from being brought against the Church and against the Woman's Movement. Mrs. Laughton Mathews then spoke of Leonora de Alberti, the first editor. When we who knew and loved her had passed away her vigorous and lovable personality would still live on in her articles in the CATHOLIC CITIZEN, which in truth formed part of the Woman's Movement. She asked those present to stand for a moment in honour of

Leonora de Alberti who had steered the paper so skilfully for nineteen years.

To succeed her had needed great courage, but St. Joan looks after her own, and in Miss Christine Spender, the present editor, a worthy successor had been found.

Father Gerald Vann, O.P., the next speaker, who continued the tradition established by Father Bede Jarrett and Father Vincent McNabb, of the friendship of Dominicans for St. Joan's Alliance, dwelt on the importance to-day of St. Joan's international and social work, reminding us that we would not be able to build a new world unless we realised that our present world was not Christian. He saluted us for our international spirit and for our achievements and wished us even greater success in the future.

Lady Rhondda, editor of *Time and Tide*, and a pioneer in the suffrage movement, said that this anniversary brought back memories of work in the suffrage campaign when St. Joan's had always been found crusading and leading in the right direction. The CATHOLIC CITIZEN was full of life and good writing, and to have kept it going through two wars—and heaven knew how many slumps—was a feat! It had been founded before any English woman had a vote at all and had seen British women get first partial and then the full franchise. This little paper had seen an extraordinary improvement in women's position, and had played its part in attaining this, but how much remained to be done! What proportion of M.P.s, cabinet ministers, diplomats, higher grade civil servants or bank managers were women? What happened to a British woman who married a foreigner? It was because of the loss this injustice meant to the world, that it mattered, for the world that was wanted was

neither man-made nor woman-made but a human world, and this was the world for which the CATHOLIC CITIZEN stood.

Mrs. Corbett Ashby, President of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, said that it was difficult for her to express all she felt of affection and admiration not only for the paper, but also for St. Joan's. Both she and her organisation were grateful for a co-operation which was an admirable proof of the loyalty of women to women. When the Alliance had itself become international its tie with the I.W.S.A. had not been loosened. The Catholic viewpoint which it expressed was of the greatest value. Mrs. Corbett Ashby paid a tribute to the Alliance's championship of the women of native races who could not help themselves. She valued especially, at this time, the high place given by the CATHOLIC CITIZEN to spiritual values.

Miss Helen Douglas Irvine an ex-Chairman of St. Joan's Alliance pointed out that the aim of feminism was to allow women to give their natural gifts to the world, that feminism was natural while anti-feminism was a perversion. She considered this quality of naturalness to be pre-eminent in the CATHOLIC CITIZEN, as it had been in its first editor, Leonora de Alberti. She loved the paper for its sober dignity, its avoidance of the sensational and the irrelevant, and its cheerful spirit. It illustrated Dom Gilbert Higgins' jubilee message of greeting: "Nought that is joyless can endure." It was distinguished also by respect for truth, a quality now uncommon in journalism, and by a fearlessness that toadied neither to power nor to fashion, a fearlessness all but reckless. The little paper's very distinct character had been created by Leonora de Alberti and developed by Christine Spender.

In introducing Mr. Ernest Oldmeadow, formerly editor of the *Tablet*, Mrs. Laughton Mathews expressed her gratitude to the *Tablet* and the *Catholic Times* in the past for their consistent support of votes for women, and to the *Universe* and the *Catholic Herald* for the publicity they are giving to St. Joan's activities.

Mr. Oldmeadow said that he had always admired the CATHOLIC CITIZEN and the Alliance for the services they had rendered to social movements. He had invariably been impressed by the paper's inflexible fidelity to high principles, especially to the Faith which it always put first. He prayed Almighty God to reward the Alliance for all it had done for the poor,

the children, the exploited women-folk of other lands and "that He will mightily energise you in what you do at the present and enlighten you in what you do in the future."

A vote of thanks to the speakers was moved by Miss Christine Spender who said that she felt the CATHOLIC CITIZEN to be as a child entrusted to her for a period of time, and like most mothers she was glad and proud when her child was praised. She owed more to the CATHOLIC CITIZEN and the Alliance than they could ever owe to her, and she wished to renew the tribute to her predecessor. She, like Miss Douglas Irvine had been haunted by Dom Gilbert Higgins' words: "Nought that is joyless can endure." The war was joyless, but it had its joyful aspects, seen, for instance, in the women's services, and she hoped that this joyful spirit would be carried over into peace. St. Joan herself must often have known a joyous zest. When the last bulwark had fallen in the fight for justice for women, the joyous spirit of the woman's movement would remain.

Miss Mary Hickey had the two-fold task of seconding the vote of thanks and bringing a message from the Liverpool Branch. She supported in particular Lady Rhondda's insistence that women must take their full and natural part in the governmental machinery of the country; till they did so the constitutional tree would never bear fruit. The Liverpool Branch congratulated itself on having given the Alliance its Secretary, Miss Barry, and some other distinguished members, notably the Parnell family, of whom the late Mrs. Parnell was a champion seller of the CATHOLIC CITIZEN.

Societies represented: Association for Moral and Social Hygiene; British Commonwealth League; Catholic Social Guild; Catholic Women's League; International Woman Suffrage Alliance; National Council for Equal Citizenship; National Council of Women; Nationality of Married Women Committee; National Union of Women Teachers; Open Door Council; Open Door International; Suffragette Fellowship; Women's Freedom League.

Subscriptions to the Alliance and to the "Catholic Citizen" are now due. We beg all our friends to send their subscriptions without delay, and thus save extra work and expense at the Office. Subscription to the "Catholic Citizen" 2s. 6d., minimum annual subscription to the Alliance 1s. At the same time we remind members that 1s. does not cover even the expense of sending notices, and we ask them to increase their subscriptions if possible.

Notes and Comments

The 29th Annual Meeting of St. Joan's Alliance will be held on Saturday, March 16th, at St. Patrick's Club Rooms, Soho Square. We ask our members to make a note of the date. A notice announcing time and speakers will be sent to each member.

* * * *

In consequence of the successful use of women police officers of the Metropolitan Force in detective work the Home Office has authorised an increase in the branch from 140 to 150. Ten women are to be made detectives and their places taken by ten new recruits. These ten officers assigned to detective work will receive exactly the same pay and allowances as men detectives, and their services will be utilised in all types of criminal investigation, but more especially in inquiries into offences against women and children.

* * * *

On January 24th a deputation of M.P.s, led by Viscountess Astor, discussed with Mr. Oliver Stanley the rights of the legal wife in cases where the Army allowance was allotted to the "unmarried wife," the discussion including the position of wives legally separated from their husbands.

Lady Astor stated that Mr. Stanley listened sympathetically to their case but "gave us absolutely nothing. All he could do was to promise to consider our claim."

The position at the moment is that the "unmarried wife" if she has been maintained by the soldier "on a full domestic basis" for six months before he is called up for service, is entitled to the official Army allowance. If he says nothing about his real wife she gets nothing, but if he admits that he has a real wife and that a court separation order entitles her to maintenance the Army authorities will make compulsory deductions from the soldier's pay and forward the money to her. But since Army Law limits the amount that can be deducted from a soldier's pay, the amount available for the wife may be much less than she was receiving under the separation order. She can, however, go to the Special Allowances Committee and ask for more. In the case where no court order exists when the man was called up, or if there was no actual dependence, the legal wife can get nothing.

* * * *

Sir John Simon announced in the House on 23rd January a revision of old age pensions

with two main proposals (1) to increase pensions for the needy by supplementary payments (2) to reduce the pensionable age for insured women from 65 to 60 and to make a similar reduction for married women whose husbands are 65 years of age or over.

Where the first proposal is concerned those who can prove that they are unable to live on their means, can receive an additional amount, not specified, which will be payable with the 10/- pension through the Post Office. It is thought that this will make it unnecessary for pensioners to apply for Public Assistance and will relieve the Local Authorities of expenditure. There will be a reduction in the grants made from the centre to Local Authorities.

As regards the second proposal it has to be paid for by additional contributions from women of 3d. per week, 2d. from the employee and 1d. from the employer. It may be noted that in the past, the single woman has paid more for her pension than the man.

As our readers know we do not believe it is in the best interests of women to be regarded as pensionable at an earlier age than men.

* * * *

In his broadcast speech at the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, on January 27th, Mr. Winston Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty, said that millions of new workers would be needed and more than a million women must come boldly forward into our war industry.

"Nearly a million women were employed in the last war in 1918 under the Ministry of Munitions. They did all kinds of things that no one had ever expected them to do before, and they did them very well. But after the war was over they all went back home, and were no obstacle to the resumption of normal conditions of British life and labour. Without this expansion of labour and without allowing the women of Britain to enter the struggle, we should fail utterly to bear our fair share of the burden France and Britain have jointly assumed. . . ."

"They all went back home." Does Mr. Churchill really think that it is just that women should come forward unstintedly in war-time and then bear all the brunt of the dislocation caused by the war, when peace is signed? Our attitude on this subject is put clearly on page seventeen.

The General Secretary of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, as reported in the *Times*, stated that, while the Union is and always has been opposed to the introduction of women into the industry, if it did come to the question of bringing in women workers "the Union would insist that they should be paid the same as men."

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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Opening Doors

Miss Hilda Martindale, C.B.E., author of *Women Servants of the State**: 1870-1938 and now retired from the Civil Service, was herself a pioneer in holding administrative rank: her outstanding abilities, fidelity to duty, and enduring good humour and tact, made her a protagonist in the woman's cause whose very qualities disarmed her opponents.

Here is a valuable historical record of women's work in Government service for the past seventy years. And is it not typical of the casual English way of doing fateful things that the first women to enter the Civil Service were a few "young ladies" taken over as part and parcel of a going concern when the Government bought the telegraph system established by private enterprise in this country? Moreover it is a fact worthy of wider publicity that the Telegraph Company concerned had ventured upon employing the "young ladies" in the first place, not because of feminist sympathies, but as a gesture of loyalty to Queen Victoria who is said to have expressed a desire, many years earlier, that women should be given opportunities for entering the labour market as skilled workers.

So the Post Office led the way in employing women: but later a P.M.G. expressed strong opposition to women working in the Returned Letter Office, lest they should be demoralized by the unsavoury contents of the correspondence falling into their hands in the course of duty. A Savings Bank official later adopted another attitude, and expressed his great surprise that pretty girls were adding up figures without making mistakes! One Government office displayed its fancies and its fear by always having its female clerks locked in for the whole

* *Women Servants of the State: 1870-1938.* By Hilda Martindale, C.B.E. (George Allen and Unwin, 7s. 6d.)

day on the top floor while the male clerks used the rest of the building. But still later, when officialdom had made the startling decision to let men and women work in the same room, it was handsomely acknowledged that the women's presence had caused a marked improvement in the tone of the men's conversation.

Despite vigorous protests by men, women's employment increased and 1914 saw 600 women in the Civil Service. By 1935 this figure had increased to 80,000.

The feminist struggle within the Government Service had two main aspects: its first task was to gain entry for women to the lower grades of all departments: the second task was to gain for highly qualified women the right of free competition with men in the executive and administrative branches of the various Government departments. At present the Diplomatic Service is the only stronghold which has withstood the women's siege.

But in the executive and administrative branches of all departments, prejudice, selfishness and long-established custom still debar women in practice from gaining a just proportion of the responsible and well-paid posts which in theory they are entitled to occupy. It cannot, however, be too strongly emphasised that women should qualify in larger numbers for these posts. Miss Martindale points out that in the nine years between 1927 and 1938 only 88 women competed for the administrative class, and of these only eight were successful. These disappointing facts are tools in the hands of the anti-feminists! Are there none amongst the younger members of St. Joan's Alliance who will turn their ambitions in this direction?

This book admirably fulfils its task, and it contains index, bibliography, and—special thanks for this!—a list of dates. It seems

therefore temerarious to make an adverse criticism. Yet, just because the book will be the classic history of women's Government service during these seventy years, it seems a great pity that it should not include more record of the actual names and achievements of the women who have done historic pioneer work in different departments. One valuable and interesting chapter indeed is devoted to the pioneer work of Miss M. C. Smith, head of the women's staff of the Savings Bank in the days of Henry Fawcett; Miss M. H. Mason who did valiant work for young people under the Poor Law Department; and Dame Adelaide Anderson who was the head of the women's branch of the Factory Department. May we hope that another similar chapter may be added in a further issue? For the women of to-day and of the generations to come will want to know to whom to give their tribute and their thanks.

EVELYN BILLING.

Women in Industry

We are in entire agreement with a letter to the recently formed Joint Council for Industry sent by the Open Door Council which puts forward certain considerations which should govern the employment of women in war-time circumstances. These concern wages and conditions of employment and dismissal under war and post-war conditions and women in munitions works, heavy trades, etc. We note a few of the more important points. The women concerned should understand that if they take the jobs of men sent to the front, they should give up these jobs on the men's return to civil life, except in the case of skilled work for which, after the war, there is a shortage of available labour. Their wages should be at the same rate as those of male workers, and women who wish to remain in new or expanded processes should have complete liberty to do so. A return to the policy of the Pre-War Practices Act (1918-1919) is vigorously opposed since this brought about "wholesale dismissals of women in favour of youths who had seen no war-service" and "did incalculable damage to sound industrial organisation."

Two important principles are urged: (1) The principle of the occupational rate irrespective of the sex of the workers. (2) The principle of a high national standard of safety and amenity, reasonable working hours, and generally good conditions of work throughout industry, irrespective of sex.

A similar letter has been sent by St. Joan's Alliance to the Joint Council for Industry.

Women and War Conditions

On January 26th St. Joan's Alliance took part in a conference organised by the Women's Freedom League at the Minerva Club, Mrs. Corbett Ashby presiding. The subject considered was "Women and War Conditions Now: the Status and Future of Women Workers." Among resolutions passed were those demanding fair play and security for the woman worker; the appointment of suitable women to act as supervisors or fore-women in munitions and other factories; that there should be more women personnel in the working of the evacuation scheme; that a section at the Ministry of Information should be responsible for giving information both at home and abroad on the activities of women in wartime; demanding family allowances and demanding adequate payments to women workers.

A resolution on Personal Injuries (Emergency Provisions) Act sent in the name of St. Joan's Alliance was passed as follows:

This Conference protests against the scheme of Allowances put forward by the Ministry of Pensions under the Personal Injuries (Emergency Provisions) Act, on the following grounds:

- The differentiation between men and women without family responsibilities.
- The inadequate allowances for the wives and children of injured men.
- The absence of any compensation for a woman who is not herself a wage-earner or Civil Defence Worker, except in respect of the wages of a person to replace her in domestic labour in her home.

It urges the Government to amend the scheme so as to give benefits on the same lines as in the existing scheme, to those engaged in unpaid domestic work.

This Conference further resolves to ask the Minister of Pensions to receive a deputation on the three points (a), (b) and (c).

We are most grateful to Miss Somers who ably moved this resolution with a clear knowledge of the technicalities.

The following resolution on the nationality of Married Women was moved and passed:

This Conference while welcoming the fact that Clause 10 (6) of the British Nationality and Status of Aliens Act (allowing a British born woman married to an enemy alien to apply to resume British nationality) is now being implemented, calls the attention of the Government to the position of British women married to friendly aliens who are unable to apply to resume British nationality and urges the Government to adopt and pass into law without delay an Emergency Bill to give all British women the right to retain their British nationality independently of marriage while residing in the United Kingdom until after the war, when a Bill to give unrestricted independent nationality to a woman shall be immediately passed into law.

St. Joan's Alliance was represented by Miss Barry, Miss Somers and Mrs. MacFadyen.

International Notes

Brazil. Miss Stella de Faro of Rio has been made a member of a special Commission appointed by the Government for the distribution of family allowances. She is the only woman member on the commission which counts eight men.

Courses of social service are eagerly followed by a number of young women at the "Escola de Servico Social" founded by His Eminence Cardinal Lame. These courses have been organised in view of new professions for women which are felt necessary for the development of a vast Governmental programme of social assistance.

The old "fazenda" (house and plantation grounds) of "Pan Grande" (Big Trunk) in the State of Rio has been left by its deceased proprietor for the foundation of a Girl's City. Needy girls will there receive a general education and rural training. The public has enthusiastically welcomed the foundation and Her Ex. D. Darcy Vargas, wife of President Vargas, is chairman of the Committee which is to collect additional funds. To this end a grand evening festival was recently organised in the beautiful old gardens of the former imperial palace, nowadays a museum.

M. H. L.

China. In *Cahiers Auxiliaires Laiques des Missions* there is an interesting report by Miss Lo Seng Tso on education in China with special reference to the part played by Catholic education. This report was sent to the International Congress of the Junior Catholic Women's Leagues.

There are unfortunately very few Catholic secondary and technical girls' schools except in the big towns. In 1920 the National and Protestant Universities accepted young women and many follow University courses. But only in 1938 were young women accepted in the Catholic University of Shanghai and then exclusively in the faculties of Medicine and Law.

Miss Lo Seng Tso herself was obliged to study in a Protestant University. She points out that naturally it is the Universities which lead progress in the country and influence the people, especially at the present stage of China's development.

"That is why this problem is tragic. As Catholics should we not be in the vanguard and not always behind others? Nearly all the Chinese women's associations are pagan or Protestant."

Miss Lo Seng Tso adds that in Protestant schools and colleges the great majority of the staff are Chinese whereas in the Catholic schools hardly any teachers of the country are employed.

* * * *

From Mrs. Isabella Scott, an undaunted champion of "Votes for Women" we have received cuttings telling us that Mr. Adelard Godbout, a member of the Canadian Liberal party and recently elected premier of the province of **Quebec**, has promised that the women of Quebec shall receive the provincial vote, and has been thanked for this undertaking by the local League for Women's Rights and by the Mount Royal Women's Liberal Club. The latter association embodied its gratitude in a resolution passed at a meeting in the Notre Dame de Grace community hall, which further asked the premier to sponsor the suffrage bill himself. Another resolution passed at this meeting asked the provincial Minister of Labour to provide for the adequate representation of women on the board which will deal with the legislation on a fair wage. We congratulate the women of Quebec on the part they are playing to secure these belated reforms in a province of a British dominion.

* * * *

U.S.A. Miss Birdie Amsterdam has recently been inducted justice of the Municipal Court, 2nd District, New York. Miss Amsterdam is the only woman ever to be endorsed by all the bar associations for a municipal judgeship.

Mother Polycarpa a Dominican nun who has been postmaster of St. Joseph's, New York, since 1898, has just retired at the age of 70, which is the new Federal age limit for postmasters. Mother Polycarpa was the first nun in the U.S.A. to become a postmaster. The post office at St. Joseph's was set up on the 1,450-acre estate which the Dominican nuns bought in sections between 1896 and 1900; there was no other post office within three miles and the size of the nun's establishment justified a separate one. Mother Polycarpa was paid \$800 to \$900 a year. Since 1913 she has been Mother Superior at St. Joseph's and for the last twelve years has delegated the daily post office work to Sister Micheala, while continuing herself to draw up all the monthly reports to the Post Office Department.

"Flight"

BY FATHER GRAEFF (Pallotin, missionary in Queenstown, S. Africa)

One Sunday, after Mass, a young girl of about eighteen came up and silently handed me a letter.

"Who is this from?"

"From me, Father."

After hearing all the requests and questions of my many "children," I called Afra into my room, and read her letter.

"Father, my heart is heavy. My mother and brothers want to marry me to a man who came yesterday and demanded my hand; but he is a pagan, and I don't want to marry him. Mother and the others all say I must become a pagan again and go with him. You are my Father, and I have come to you. Please help me."

"Afra," I said, "did you ever guess before that this man wanted you?"

"No, Father. He suddenly appeared yesterday, offered eleven oxen for me, and asked for my hand in marriage."

"What did your mother say?"

"That I must go with him to-morrow, after laying aside my Christian clothes. And when I told her that I did not love this man and that I did not want to become a pagan again, she wouldn't listen to me . . . Father, what must I do? I don't want to marry that man, or to return to pagan ways."

"My child, listen to me. You are baptised, and you know that the State protects you; no baptised person can be forced into marriage. Tell your mother and the others that you will appeal to the authorities if they try to force you into marriage."

"Father, it would be a dreadful thing to bring one's own mother into court!"

I understood that Afra would never have the courage to do this.

"Well there is another way. Leave your hut and fly, that is your only chance of safety. Have you no friends to whom you could go?"

"Yes, Father, many, but I don't trust them, they would betray me."

"All right. Go home, and to-morrow morning get up early and go out to the stream to wash. Your relations will imagine you are preparing for your journey with the man. When you are a good distance from home, hide in the woods until evening, then come to me. I will keep you here for the night, and the next morning early I will send you to another Mis-

sion on the other side of the river, and you will be looked after there."

So Afra went off, with my blessing. She did indeed need Divine help to enable her to hold fast and not give way to her relations. Next evening after dark there was a knock at my door and Afra came in with a little package in her hands. They were some clothes which, in order to deceive her mother, she had taken to wash in the stream. I drew the young girl in and blessed her.

"Splendid, my child, there you are. I was quite anxious about you. Now you are quite safe; I am going to give you something to eat, for you must be famished. Here is the letter you are to carry to-morrow to the Father in the other Mission. Now lie down and rest, and go with God. Those who fight with Him are sure of victory."

Afra withdrew, but my thoughts followed her and kept me awake. Alas! the fate of this child is the fate of so many others. Poor children of Cafrerie, when will you attain liberty, when will your dreams of love and family joy be realised?—*Claver Almanac, for the African Missions* (Sodality of St. Peter Claver, 1s.)

Twenty-Five Years Ago

Christopher St. John in *The Catholic Suffragist*, February 15th, 1915.

"I am afraid that some soldiers in our army of liberation are a little depressed. In addition to the common grief which must afflict all who believe that spiritual causes are greater than temporal ones, and that Christ is King on earth, at the spectacle of the brothers of Christ engaged in fratricidal strife for an end which is at best uncertain, the women who have fought for the vote, and the recognition of women as a complete human entity which the vote implies, have to endure the pang of witnessing what appears to be a set-back to their cause. . . Men are fighting, women are nursing and knitting and enduring. . . Women are working for no pay as though they had never heard of the ultimate evils produced by voluntary labour. In fact they are on the old lines patiently and adorably fulfilling their functions as the helpmeets of warriors. . . There is great satisfaction in this for General Prejudice and His Chief of Staff! The click of knitting needles sounds far more pleasantly in their ears than the cry of 'Votes for Women!'"

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Catholic Citizen
Silver Jubilee

Jubilate Deo

Further Jubilee tributes to the CATHOLIC CITIZEN.*

The Very Rev. W. J. Lockington, S.J. (Australia).

We are to-day far in advance of the time, not very distant if counted by years, when women because they demanded their rights as citizens, were dragged by police from the railings of the British Houses of Parliament, were imprisoned and were lampooned as irresponsible fanatics by reputable English newspapers. And the advance owes much to organisations, all too rare, like St. Joan's Alliance. The Alliance has never followed the easier path of alleviation when dealing with existing evils, but has always boldly sought the causes of them, and fearlessly attacked them, regardless of the powerful and persistent enmity of King Mammon. For success this course needs courage and culture and the Alliance has both. The paper has a perfect name and by it, it boldly proclaims the eternal truth on which the Alliance depends for success. We wish it *ad multos annos*.

Don Luigi Sturzo

I send you my warmest congratulations on the twenty-fifth anniversary of your paper, in its fight to ensure to women the full rights and duties of citizenship. And at the same time I send my best wishes for its future and the tasks before it. The feminist movement among Catholics has a special role to fulfil. May it influence our political democratic movements among the Catholics of Belgium, France and Switzerland, so that they may soon be able to claim complete political equality for men and women.

Brazil (Miss M. H. Lisboa, Hon. Secretary of Aliança Sta Joanna D'Arc).

To the CATHOLIC CITIZEN in this Jubilee year most hearty congratulations from Santa Joanna D'Arc, the Brazilian Section. May St. Joan's splendid little paper prosper more and more. Its interesting articles, profuse and reliable international news, together with the profound Catholic spirit always present in its pages, cannot be too highly appreciated. It certainly deserves to be subscribed to and read by a far greater number of Catholics the world over.

* Received too late for publication in the Jubilee issue.

Hungary

What I find especially worthy in the CATHOLIC CITIZEN is, that it unites Catholic ideals and the feminist movement. It is in fact the only Association that includes the two and it is by this that it has grown so strong and that it has its unique position among all feminine and feminist movements. I am sure, by keeping up this fundamental work, the CATHOLIC CITIZEN will grow and spread its influence in the world.

MAGDA DE SPUR, Budapest.

Yugo-Slavia

To the CATHOLIC CITIZEN. I congratulate you on your Silver Jubilee and wish you God's blessing, and all success in the future.

MARTA UZELAC VRANESIC, Zagreb.

Opportunity

Our publication day this month (January 15th) is the twenty-fifth anniversary of the CATHOLIC CITIZEN, our senior by some five years. We should like to offer our congratulations on the standard consistently maintained by our contemporary during its quarter-century's campaigning in the cause of sex equality and of fair play for the native women in the colonies. Salute to courage! And may the CATHOLIC CITIZEN long continue ably to voice the ideals it holds in common with ourselves.—*Opportunity* (organ of the National Association of Women Civil Servants, January, 1940).

Inter-American Commission

An informed article in *The International Women's News* seems to show that a change, which is hardly warranted, has been effected in the character of that uncompromising feminist body, the Inter-American Commission of Women. This was founded at the Sixth Pan-American Conference in 1928, explicitly "to take charge of the preparation of juridical information, and data of any other kind, which may be deemed advisable to enable the Seventh International Conference of American States to take up the consideration of the civil and political equality of women in the continent," the equality in question being, it is clear, that of women with men. The representative of the United States and the first chairman of the Commission was Miss Doris Stevens. A committee of this Sixth Pan-American Conference resolved formally that the Commission "possesses an official character and forms part

of the organism through which the Pan-American Union performs its important functions." At the Seventh Pan-American Conference the Commission presented a useful report and was authorised to continue its work. Miss Stevens continued to hold office. But the Eighth Conference, that held in Lima in 1938, passed a resolution which overlooked the recognised purpose of the Inter-American Commission of Women, namely to promote the civil and political equality of the sexes, and declared it to be "charged with the permanent study of all the problems concerning American women," in connection with which it would "act in an advisory capacity." Subsequently President Roosevelt appointed a new representative of the United States on the Commission, thus assuming, on grounds which are not apparent, that Miss Stevens had ceased to hold office. That the legality of the president's action is at least questionable is proved by a resolution which was referred by Congress last August to the Committee on Foreign Relations, and which states that the representative of the United States on the Commission and its chairman, having been nominated by the Secretary of State for the United States and appointed by the governing board of the Pan-American Union, is an official of this union which alone is competent to deprive her of office. The same resolution reaffirms the function of the Inter-American Commission of Women as it was defined at the Conference of 1928 and describes it as a "quasi legislative" body. The writer of the article in the *International Women's News* ascribes the alternations in the nature and the composition of the Commission, introduced with such doubtful warrant by the Eighth Conference and by President Roosevelt, to the fact that the North American delegation to this latest Conference included "ardent supporters of social reform as distinct from supporters of equal status." Possibly a revolt against the prolonged chairmanship of a North American woman is also indicated, for we find that the new chairman is Señora Ana Rosa S. de Martinez Guerrero of Argentina and the new vice-chairman Señora Minerva Bernardino of Santo Domingo. Señora de Martinez and Señora Bernardino are both Catholics, and Señora de Martinez is president of the Union Argentina de Mujeres and was an advocate of women's suffrage at the Lima Conference. We appreciate their work and we welcome their co-operation in the cause of feminism, but we regret that they have been placed, apparently, in a false position.

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