Catholic

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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.

Woman Power

BY CHRISTINE SPENDER

"This debate creates another milestone in British Parliamentary history," declared Miss Irene Ward during the debate on the third reading of the Woman Power Bill. Most of the debaters were in favour of registration since it would act as a signpost to women, helping them to make up their minds, and showing them where their work was needed. The Minister of Labour has made it clear that under the present Bill each case should be considered on its merits and that an unconsidered move over of women to arms factories or one of the Services is not the aim of registration.

Mr. Assheton, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Labour, in moving the reading, announced the formation of a Committee of women to help Mr. Bevin and advise him "regarding the registration of women and the best means of securing their services in the national war effort." He also announced that "it has been decided to abandon the old principle of paying allowances to men and women in training centres and to put them on a proper wage basis."

Mr. Assheton explained the workings of registration.

"Registration is to be followed by interviews. The women will be interviewed by women officers of the Department . . . it will be decided what best each woman can do and what form of national work will be most appropriate for her. I am sure that the House will desire that the greatest care should be taken to avoid calling upon women with young children and those with special domestic responsibilities · clearly there is no higher form of national service for any woman than the guidance of a home and the upbringing of young children."

"We shall not expect every woman to change her job. We shall not want any woman to do so until she has been interviewed."

If any woman is directed to work to which she takes objection she will be free to go before an appeal board with an independent chairman. It is evidently intended that this shall cover conscientious objection, though Mr. Assheton declared he did not think this question was likely to arise since there are plenty of other "opportunities of serving" besides that of munition-making "to which no conscientious objection would be likely to be advanced."

Mr. Assheton made it clear that further registrations of women would follow those of the 20 and 21 age groups of April. Points that emerged from his speech were the magnified demands for women in all branches of National Service, demands which far exceed those of 1914-1918; the need for mobility of woman labour and all the problems of billeting and welfare connected therewith; the special arrangements to be made in dealing with married women whose services might be used. Throughout his speech he tried to make it explicit that in tapping woman power it would be foolish to take women away from useful work and to put them into national work until it was quite certain that other sources of supply had been exhausted. Considerable numbers of women, nevertheless, would probaly be found to be unemployed by the closing down of industries and there would be others "not yet taking their full share in the war effort.'

Miss Ward, the first speaker in the debate which followed, hoped "that some real attempt

for equal compensation rates under the Personal Injuries Act. In the course of a long speech she touched on the need for more qualified women in key positions, for an adequate superannuation scheme for members of the nursing might not, after the prescribed fortnight of services and the re-organisation of the A.T.S. tinguishable from the general question of the until a girl is able to earn a living wage, she national effort" went on to ask the Minister for will be provided with a subsistence allowance." clearer guidance on the subject of women em- Finally, Mrs. Hardie associated herself with the distribution. The matter had been clarified to raid injuries. a certain extent by the speech that day, but of Labour a general feeling had arisen among women that they had better join an "essential" service or they would be conscripted into one. This caused a substantial drift away of girls was enhanced by the higher wages paid in women to be asked to stay where they are?

months of war the appeal for women to come forward had been made prematurely when there was no machinery to deal with them. They had been discouraged and moreover the Employment Exchanges still showed signal inadequacy in dealing with the highly qualified worker; and factory employers "seem to have forgotten the very highly skilled work . . . carried out by women in the last war." Miss Lloyd George referred with disapproval to the unequal rates to be paid to trainees, which begin at 60s. for the man and 38s. for the woman, and she asked what was the Ministry's justification for such unequal conditions. Speaking of women's employment on the land. Miss Lloyd George hoped that the Ministry would organise the training of women for work on the farms. Miss Cazalet emphasised the injustice of paying unequal compensation rates for civil injuries: "I cannot think of a single good reason for giving different rates to women and men," she said. She wondered why "the whole of the 28 jobs of Regional and Deputy Regional Commissioners," were held by men and why there were so few women in other key posts.

Mrs. Hardie regretted very much the conscription of women since "women thereby have been robbed of the only weapon they possess to obtain good conditions in the factories." She underlined the fact that "a woman who is training and bringing up children is doing a

will be made to pay proper and good wages for most important job for future generations," women's skilled work," and she made a plea therefore mothers with young children should therefore mothers with young children should not be conscripted. She also maintained that "women have a right to get work as far as possible in their own districts" and feared that the wage paid to the young girl leaving home. supplementary allowances, be a sufficient liv-Sir George Schuster, declaring that he regarded ing wage. "The Minister will have to revise the question of woman power as "quite indis- the conditions of the allowance and say that ployed on important work such as that of food protest against unequal compensation rates for

Viscountess Davidson pleaded for more following the recent broadcast by the Minister women police, declaring that "the time has come when it is necessary for the Home Secretary to make the employment of women police compulsory." Referring to the Minister's speech over the wireless she said that there was an trained to take the places of men, and this drift unfortunate impression that compulsion would be used immediately after registration and that munitions. Would it not be better for these it should be made clear to women that they were not to leave their present jobs until Miss Lloyd George said that in the first needed. There was a further unfortunate impression that "young mothers should make arrangements as soon as possible for their small children to be looked after . . . in order that they themselves could go into factories." But "a mother's first job is to care for her babies." Viscountess Davidson was another speaker to protest against unequal war injury compensa-

> Miss Horsbrugh referred particularly to points in speeches which concerned the Ministry of Health, explaining intentions concerning the employment of minders for the children of women working in factories, why there were not more hostels for workers, and the position in hospitals and the nursing services generally. She announced that "a further increase in pay is being made to the civil nursing reserve, with the idea that its members should be able to contribute to superannuation.

> "The two main features of the scheme are the element of compulsion and the element of guidance," declared Miss Rathbone. "The latter is by far the most important." She stoutly asserted herself to be a 100 per cent feminist who strove to secure equality of citizenship between men and women, and was therefore critical of the short-comings of her sex. She believed that there were probably rather more slackers and shirkers among women than had been generally acknowledged

> > (Continued on page 36)

Notes and Comments

On March 31st Mr. Peake, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, received at the Home Office representatives of eleven women's societies, who urged an alteration in the nationality law to provide for the independent nationality of a British woman married to an alien and that British Nationality shall not automatically be conferred on a woman who marries a British subject. The deputation, which had the support of 35 other organisations, was introduced by Mrs. Patrick Ness, other speakers being Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Miss Anna Monroe and Mrs. Isabel Donzé. Miss Barry and Miss Challoner represented St. Joan's

A memorandum prepared by the Nationality of Married Women Committee was presented, Part I giving a brief historical review of the position to date, while Part II deals with special conditions arising out of the war.

Mr. Peake expressed sympathy with the object of the deputation but explained the great difficulty of undertaking legislation of this nature in war-time. He promised to report fully to the Home Secretary. The deputation reminded Mr. Peake that during the years of peace women's organisations had been pressing for the reform of the nationality laws and there had been ample opportunity for such reform.

As reported in the January number of the CATHOLIC CITIZEN, British-born women married to Italians are, on application, beginning to have their British Nationality restored to them. A large majority of applications received from British-born wives of Austrians and Germans have been granted.

* * * *

Mr. Herbert Morrison, Home Secretary, has made Orders exempting women who have lost British Nationality, by reason of marriage to aliens, from most of the war-time restrictions to which they have been subjected-namely, the restrictions imposed by the Aliens (Movement Restriction) Orders, 1940 and 1941, and by the Aliens (Protected Areas) Orders, 1940 and 1941. They are also relieved of the obligation to obtain a permit from the Ministry of Labour before taking employment.

Mr. Morrison answered questions on the subject of Policewomen put by Mr. Mander in the House

Mr. H. Morrison: Representations on this subject have been received from various organisations. A

circular was sent to police authorities and chief officers of police in August last, calling attention to the ques-tion of additional policewomen in areas where there are large military establishments or munitions factories and asking that consideration should be given to this matter in the light of conditions resulting from the war, and in consultation where necessary with the military authorities. In a number of forces appointments have been made as a result of this circular, and according to the latest available information, 410 appointments of women for whole-time police duties and 542 appointments as whole-time unattested members of the Women's Auxiliary Police Corps have been approved in England and Wales; the authorised establishment of policewomen at the outbreak of war was 246, although in some forces recruitment had not taken place up to establishment. It is the policy of the Home Office to encourage police authorities to make full use of the services of suitable women. The scope and need for policewomen vary according to local conditions, but I have very much in mind the importance of taking all suitable opportunities for developing the use of their services.

Mr. MANDER: Is the Minister satisfied with the progress made in all cases, and, if not, will he consider the desirablity of issuing a Defence Regulation empowering him to take action from the centre?

Mr. Morrison: No, Sir, I do not think that in the circumstances I should be justified in over-riding the normal machinery of local government in this

We congratulate our member, Miss Eileen Hickey, of Belfast, on her election as President of the Queen's Graduates Association. She is the first woman president. Miss Hickey is also head of the W.V.S. Evacuation Board of Northern Ireland.

We offer our deep sympathy to Viscountess Rhondda on the death of her mother, Sybil, Lady Rhondda. Both mother and daughter were ardent members of the W.S.P.U. Our Alliance remembers with gratitude the kind help given by the late Lady Rhondda to our workers in South Wales in the early days of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society.

We ask the prayers of our readers for the repose of the souls of our members, Miss O'Gorman and Mrs. Finlayson Gauld, who died recently. R.I.P. Mrs. Finlayson Gauld was a keen W.S.P.U. member and a Suffragette prisoner. She was a wonderful orator, and when the vote was attained helped us greatly in making women realise their civic responsibili-

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE,

Editorial Office of "Catholic Citizen":

55 Berners Street, London, W.I. Tel. Museum 4181 Signed articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Society.

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Thirtieth Annual Meeting

Though many faces familiar year after year and steadily and persistently continue to deat the Annual Meetings were absent-some, velop, in close contact with other organisations, alas! never to be seen again—the meeting of At the end of her life Gabrielle Jeffery could March 15, 1941, was so well attended as to give stimulating proof of the loyalty and interest with which St. Joan's members follow Mrs. Craw its work.

After the apologies for absence and messages from those unable to be present had been read Canon Reardon said the De Profundis for the repose of the souls of Gabrielle Jeffery, Leonora de Alberti, Marie Bain, and those members who the mistake made in neglecting the education had died during the year.

The Annual Report was read by Miss Bodenham, after which Canon Reardon congratulated the Alliance on its "wonderful work," at a time when there were more opportunities than ever to get full equality for women. The glaring inequalities, he said, in pensions schemes and payment of war services ought to be abolished. Since all were in the front line, all should have the same pay, and the question of pensions was particularly grave. In conclusion, he said that it was by fastening on particular items and pressing them that the Alliance could do most valuable work.

The adoption of the Report was then moved by Mrs. Crawford, a former Chairman of the Alliance, who complimented the editor of the CATHOLIC CITIZEN on the admirable way in which she was carrying on in very difficult times. The Annual Meeting enabled one to realise en bloc what the Alliance was doing and the tremendous amount still left for it to do.

Mrs. Crawford touched on the great loss we had suffered in the death of our founder, which had cast a shadow over the whole year. But to the office. It was good, she said, to feel so Gabrielle Jeffery had had the satisfaction that did not fall to all founders of seeing the work

feel satisfied—as far as any good Christian could

Mrs. Crawford spoke of the work of the Alliance to improve the position of African women, a work which had been recognised by so competent an authority as Cardinal Hinsley. She was glad to note that a recent Under-Secretary for the Colonies had spoken of of "native" women. Their education, said Mrs. Crawford, had been very dear to her friend, Mother Kevin. Even missionaries had tended to concentrate on the men, forgetting the impossibility of Christian families without Christian mothers. More money was, it seemed, to be spent on the education of women, and we could be proud that in Uganda it was Mother Kevin who was the first woman to press this point of view upon the Government. It was interesting, too, to note that now the whole training of Catholic women for missionary work had been altered; thanks largely to Mother Kevin's insistence it was being recognised that piety was not sufficient qualification, and now voung nuns were having a three years' training, as doctors, dentists, mid-wives, teachers, and so forth.

In conclusion, Mrs. Crawford paid a tribute to the memory of Alice Abadam, who was an active member in the early years of the Society and had been a very fine speaker.

The adoption of the Report was seconded by Miss Betty Lowe, who often gives her services much work was being done by the Alliance in spite of the war, and as an example of what inshe had started come in a measure to fruition dividual members could do she mentioned a

letter she had written to her M.P. as part of and Miss Barry had made St. Joan's, and their r women under the Personal Injuries Act. It ad brought two letters in reply, the second companied by some pages of Hansard which owed that he had brought the matter up in was proof positive that letters to M.P.s did

The adoption of the Financial Report, read by the Hon. Treasurer, Miss J. Organ, was moved by Miss Fugger Jabloner, of Vienna, who wished, she said, to express the gratitude of fighting feminists on the Continent for the fine lead British women had given in the past. She became a member of St. Joan's, she said, six years ago, when she had been sold a copy of the CATHOLIC CITIZEN in the street. At that time she had believed England was entirely Protestant. She had not then been in contact with the organised feminist movement in Austria. Equal rights had been established in the Constitution of 1918 and were taken for granted in the progressive democratic parties. She was very glad indeed, she concluded, to be able now to do a little work for the Alliance, and she appealed to fellow members to do still

Mrs. Harrington, another office helper, seconded the adoption of the Financial Report. The deficit of £22, she said, made one think. The CATHOLIC CITIZEN and its editor could never receive enough praise. It always reminded her of a writer's advice to a young man: Write as much as possible using as few words as possible." But praise was not sufficient. St. Joan's members must co-operate more. They must help with both brains and cash. Mrs. Harrington suggested that each should try to get a new member and that a 3s. subscription to the paper might be an Easter gift. We must put our shoulders to the wheel, money on the table, and the Alliance at the top of the world.

Both the Annual Report and the Financial Report were then adopted by the meeting. The Chairman announced that as no nominations had been sent in for the Committee there would be at present no elections.

In her address, Miss Challoner, Chairman, said that she would speak of the past, the present and the future. We lived indeed, not on the past, but out of the past. We were led to think of the past particularly by the death of our founder, to whom we could not grudge a life more full of activity than on earth. With her must always be remembered Leonora de Alberti. Gabrielle Jeffery, Leonora de Alberti,

e campaign to secure equality of treatment names would always be indissolubly associated.

THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

The present was conditioned by the war, which had temporarily taken away Mrs. Laughton Mathews and others. War brought the House, using almost her very words. Here certain temptations to afflict the just. It needed strength of mind for people to go on with the job they were fitted for, and not to forsake it for extraneous things. St. Joan's was doing a particular job that no-one else could do, and it would be a betrayal to deflect its activity. Whatever other work they were doing, feminists must continue their task till the equality laid down in the "St. Joan's peace terms" by their founder had been established. There was also a temptation—which she thought, she said, might not apply so much here—to falter on moral issues, but looking ahead, we could realise that a lowering of moral standards was not a lessening of the evils in-

It was impossible to foretell the future, but one thought, she concluded, had been with a great many in the last few years—the doctrine of the Mystical Body of Christ, so that all should grow to the stature of the fullness of Christ, in whom is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female.

Miss Organ then appealed for funds. She pointed out how two years ago Mrs. Benjamin had stressed the precarious position of the Alliance. By the deaths of Miss Bain and Miss Jeffery, a loss of over £40 yearly was sustained by the Alliance. The Hon. Treasurer appealed for donations of £5 to cover the rent, and of 10s. to cover the deficit. A collection was then taken which together with promises amounted to over £50.

The following Resolutions were then put to the meeting and carried.

RE-AFFIRMATIONS

St. Joan's Social and political Alliance re-affirms the resolutions repeatedly carried at past annual meetings which urge (1) the grant of equal political rights throughout the Empire, including the admission of women to the House of Lords; (2) the repeal of the present unjust solicitation laws; (3) the establishment of equal pay and opportunities for men and women and freedom for married women to decide for themselves whether they shall engage in paid work; (4) the elimination of all differentiations on the the ground of sex in insurance and pensions legislation; (5) the separate taxation of married persons; (6) that in all British Dependencies a due proportion of the Government Grant for Colonial Development should be applied to the education of girls; (7) that in all British Dependencies (a) no contract of marriage or betrothal shall be made for any girl under fourteen years of age; (b) no contract shall be made for a girl over fourteen years of age without

her consent, any such contract shall be null and void and any person who coerces any girl or woman to enter a marriage union against her will shall be guilty of an offence; (8) the banning of the dissemination of contraceptive advice by public authorities, whether central or municipal, and of the further legalisation of sterilisation and abortion.

EQUAL MORAL STANDARD

St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Prime Minister to give an assurance that no British or Empire Authority will ever permit officially or unofficially, the existence of brothels in any area under British control and that, in all other areas, brothels shall be definitely placed out of bounds for all our Forces. Further, it calls upon the Government to forbid all official suggestion and action based upon the theory that brothels and medically inspected women are necessary for the use of our British and Empire Forces or civilians in any part of the world.

EQUAL PAY AND OPPORTUNITIES

St. Joan's S.P.A. urges that women in industry shall be paid at the same rate as men and enjoy the same conditions of employment. In cases where women replace men on military service, they should clearly understand their obligation to relinquish their work in favour of the men who held it previously, when the latter return to civil life. Otherwise all employment should be open to women on the same terms

WAR SERVICES AND PENSIONS St. Joan's S.P.A. protests against (a) the unjust compensation rates for civilian women under the Civilian War Injuries Scheme; (b) against paying volunteers in civil defence services a flat rate onethird less than the payment to men for the same work; (c) the practice of paying one-third less to women in the Auxiliary Fighting Services than to men doing similar work in the Navy, Army and Air Forces; (d) the practice of paying the dependents of women in national service, who are killed or disabled in the service of their country, less compensation than is paid in like circumstances to the dependents of men. It calls upon the Government so to amend these rates as to make them equal between men and women.

NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN

St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to introduce and pass into law an emergency bill (a) giving British women married to aliens the right to re-acquire British nationality and providing that British women who in future marry aliens can retain their British nationality; (b) providing that an alien woman who marries a British man shall be required to satisfy the same conditions as to residence, oath of allegiance, as are required for an alien man or

POLICEWOMEN

St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to make it compulsory for all Watch Committees and Standing Joint Committees to appoint attested policewomen under the same conditions as policemen.

STATUS OF WOMEN

Believing that all schemes of reconstruction should be based upon the dignity of human personality as laid down in the Encyclical "Divini Redemptoris" ment to ensure that, in all such schemes, the equal status of women with men be specifically recognised in principle and in practice, morally, educationally legally, economically, socially and politically.

Miss Challoner expressed the pleasure of the Alliance in having as visitor Madame Grabinska from Poland. One of the things we had missed during the war was our contacts with other countries, but at least we had contacts with certain eminent women from other countries.

Madame Grabinska paid a tribute to the perseverance of the Alliance in work during the war saying that perseverance was the most important ingredient in the fight of good against

She gave a moving account of the martyrdom of Poland, and the agony of its women condemned to see their sons, husbands, brothers, either victims of mass murder or dying slowly in prisons and camps, while many young girls were kidnapped to fill the German brothels. This persecution, extending even to the spiritual and moral life found the country united, with faith in Christ as the mystical link uniting all Christians. BARBARA BARCLAY CARTER.

WOMAN POWER

(Continued from page 32)

in members' speeches and she hoped that under the new scheme these would be rounded up and that there would be a substantial shift-over of women working in luxury trades or as part of the domestic staff of unnecessarily luxurious establishments. Regarding rates of pay she was perturbed as to the extremely wide differentiation between men and women, and regretted that the payment of dependents' allowances is to be dropped. She considered that "the Minister should have faced up long ago to the necessity for the adoption of a full-blooded scheme of family allowances." Miss Rathbone hoped for an assurance that women in the latter stages of University training would not be in any way conscripted. Finally she pleaded that the registration scheme should be extended to "aliens of all nationalities for the sake of the war effort, for the sake of national security, and not least for the sake of the aliens them-

Doctor Summerskill felt that if propaganda had been properly conducted there would have been no need to register women. She had blushed when she heard the announcement of the unequal rates of pay for the man and woman trainee. She was appalled by the idea of (27, 28), St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Governminders for children whose mothers were at

further establishment of day nurseries with rained personnel. There should be consideration of the pregnant women and breaks for nursing mothers, during which they could feed their children. Dr. Summerskill added her voice to those speakers who protested against unequal compensation for war injuries. This point was immediately taken up and enlarged pon by Mrs. Tate, who declared herself a feminist "just because I believe in companionhip between men and women." She deplored e inefficient preparations made for the great influx of women into the war industries, reminding the House of the deputation of women M.P.s to the Minister of Labour on this very subject, fully a year before. Mrs. Tate suggested that domestic servants in farms, hospitals, etc., should "not be considered as hirkers," but be given an armlet "to show the whole country that they are recognised as contributing their part to the war effort." She regretted that women's work on the land had not peen considered a reserved occupation and asked the Government to make a national minimum wage for women and not allow them to leave work on the land for other work. Since we were fighting for democracy and democracy meant justice and equal opportunities for all, Mrs. Tate prayed that these would be given to women as well as to men.

15th April, 1941

In the course of a spech dealing chiefly with compensation under the Personal Injuries Act, Sir Walter Womersley tried to refute arguments for equality put forward by the speakers. He announced, however, that owing to some of these same arguments the compensation to the non-gainfully employed woman will be raised to 16s. 4d. a week when not in hospital, 9s. 4d. when in hospital. Provision would also be made whereby the widow who has a household to support will have no deductions made for hospital treatment.

Mrs. Adamson in her contribution to the debate said she was glad that the Minister of Labour had made it clear that the mother's of young children will be the last section of women to be called up to go into factories. She had been appalled at the lack of welfare provision in some of the factories, and also at the evidence which had come to her of sweated wages paid to women manufacturing arma-

Sir John Anderson, Lord President of the Council, in winding up the debate, acknowledged on behalf of the War Cabinent, the importance of the occasion. He thought it essen-

work in factories and made a plea for the tial that "knowledge of the very practical problems of the home and the family should be brought to bear in the course of such debates." Progress towards equality in the various matters brought up in the debate "must inevitably be a question of time," he said. "There must be a gradual process of education." He ended by assuring the women members of the House that arguments "in favour of a greater approach to equality will be listened to and considered with understanding and sympathy."

HON. TREASURER'S REPORT

We thank all those who helped to swell the collection at the Annual Meeting and the following who gave or sent donations to the Office rent: Miss F. Barry £5, Miss M. Barry £2, Miss Borton £1 5s., Miss Challoner £1, Mrs. McFadyen £1, Miss Musson £5, Dr. Shattock £2, Miss Spender £5. This totals £22 5s., and counting in the promises of another £20, we shall have the rent of the office for the half year. We are also grateful to the following who have given to the ros. deficit fund (over and above their annual subscriptions) in response to Mrs. Benjamin's appeal: Mesdames Benjamin and Hand, the Misses Billing, Bodenham, Brandt, Challoner, K. Davis, W. Davies, C. M. Gordon, Moclair, Spender and Veale. This fund, if promises are counted in, now amounts to £11 28. 6d., leaving over £13 still to be collected. Please help us to clear off this debt before St. Joan's Feast Day on May 30th.

May I beg all those who have not yet paid their annual subscription (1s. minimum membership subscription and 3s. subscription to the CATHOLIC CITIZEN, i.e., a minimum of 4s. for both) to do so

J. M. ORGAN.

Twenty-Five Years Ago

From the Catholic Suffragist, April 15th,

Mrs. Finlayson Gauld, who was the speaker, said the title given to her speech: "Women's Part, Yesterday, To-day and To-morrow," was perhaps rather too imposing for what she intended to say. . . It was extraordinary how much had been accomplished by woman throughout the ages in spite of her subjection. Women had never before enjoyed such wide opportunities as they enjoyed to-day, especially at the present moment, when they had come forward to fill up the industrial ranks, to safeguard the industries of the Empire, and in some cases to help in recapturing markets which had been lost in peace time. The speaker laid strong emphasis on the danger that the employment of women might lead to the loss of rights which the workers had won in the past, and urged all Suffragists to impress upon women who replace men to demand equal wages for equal work.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE.

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