

# Catholic Citizen

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

Signed Articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Society.

Vol. XXXI. No. 8 & 9.

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER, 1945.

Price Twopence.

Daughter of the ancient Eve,  
We know the gifts ye gave and give;  
Who knows the gifts which you shall give,  
Daughter of the Newer Eve?

Francis Thompson.

## The Significance of San Francisco

BY NANCY STEWART PARNELL.

After the last Great War I believe that one of our most popular daily papers reprinted every word of the Covenant of the League of Nations in letters of gold. The spirit that prompted this unusual proceeding was quite right, since the League of Nations offered to mankind a clear way to peace and prosperity. As Mr. Churchill himself wrote in a recent open letter to Lord Cecil, "This war could easily have been prevented if the League of Nations had been used with courage and loyalty by the associated nations."

There have been, as far as I know, no letters of gold for the reprinting of the Charter of the United Nations signed at San Francisco on June 26th. Yet in its turn this document offers to the world a way of escape from the agony of another world war and from the poverty, disorder, suspicions and anxiety that always precede the catastrophe and actually help to bring it about.

No sane person is going to pretend that the Charter signed at San Francisco and now awaiting ratification by the Parliaments of the United Nations is perfect. In some ways it falls far short of the old Covenant. In others, especially on the practical and humanitarian sides, it is much better. It is, unfortunately, far longer and more difficult to read, because it is the outcome of the efforts of a much greater number of people. Catholics will be glad to note that all the Pope's "Five Peace Points" find some place in it, although the relative importance assigned to some of them is very different. Fortunately, there are numerous provisions in the Charter for its revision, improvement and development, which it should be our responsibility to see carried out. We always have to remember that, whatever its defects, it is humanly speaking our only bulwark against future disaster.

Feminists as such can have little quarrel with the document, since most of their demands have been fairly met. In the impressive preamble we find the representatives of the United Nations reaffirming their "faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and value of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women." Again, one of the four purposes of the new world organisation is to promote and encourage "respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion." In Article 8 also we read that "The United Nations shall place no restrictions on the eligibility of men and women to participate in any capacity and under conditions of equality in its principal and subsidiary organs."

The outlines of the new organisation are very similar to those of the League of Nations which it is shortly to replace. There are, however, two really significant changes. One is the establishment among its chief organs of a small Economic and Social Council under the aegis

of the Assembly. This is designed to help nations to solve together those economic, social or humanitarian problems, such as unemployment, which experience has shown they cannot solve alone. It is also hoped that this body will promote on behalf of the United Nations "universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion."

The other new body to be created is the Trusteeship Council which will take over the work of the Mandates Commission on which it is a considerable improvement. After all its labours for the women of native races, members of the Alliance will be particularly interested in the operations of this Council and will see to it that the promise of Article 76 is fulfilled, when once again the nations pledge themselves "to encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction of race, sex, language or religion."

The methods to be adopted for the prevention of war are rather different from those laid down in the old Covenant. In the first place more specific pledges about the peaceful settlement of all disputes and abstinence from the use of force are exacted from the member states. Secondly, much more precise arrangements are made for the prevention and restraint of aggression, including the reservation of certain armed forces and military facilities on the part of all members for the use of the international authority. Thirdly, the chief responsibility for maintaining peace has been placed on "the Big Five" (China, France, Russia, the United States of America and ourselves) who alone have permanent seats on the Security Council, the small body charged with this onerous duty.

It is unfortunate that two of the "Big Five" have insisted that enforcement action may only be taken if all the five are in agreement. This virtually gives the right of veto to each of the Great Powers and also renders the organisation inoperative if one or other of them or of their satellites should embark on aggression. If, however, as we hope, all the Governments who are members of the organisation are loyal to their pledges, this so-called "veto" may prove to be far worse in theory than in practice.

Another new feature for the maintenance of peace, but one that will require careful watching, is the encouragement given to Regional agreements. Rightly used, these might become effective and economical instruments for the restraint of aggression, but they might also establish awkward rivals to the authority of the world organisation.

Whether this new Charter gives the peoples of the world peace and security and brings greater happiness and opportunity to our children depends very largely on the

Continued on page 32

## Notes and Comments

It is with profound thankfulness we record that the feast of the Assumption saw the cessation of hostilities. *Deo Gratias.*

**Resignation of our Editor.** The hateful war, now happily over, rendered us one great service—it kept our editor in England! Now we must lose her, for Chile, that land that inspired some of her finest work, claims her once again. Though we cannot but resent our loss, we must not forget our exceptional good fortune in having for the last two and a half years had the privilege of her guidance in the direction of the *Catholic Citizen*, in addition to her numerous masterly articles, always written with meticulous regard for her very high standard of work, a standard which had a salutary effect on the humbler members of the editorial staff. On July 30th the committee gave a small dinner party to Helen Douglas Irvine, when they gave her a fountain pen and a powder box in token of affection and good-will, together with heartiest good wishes for a safe journey and a speedy return. The dinner was followed by a most enjoyable visit to the Haymarket Theatre.

We regret that in the wide scope of legislation outlined in the King's Speech, no mention was made of "the equality of women before the law," though the "Labour Party is pledged to the principle of sex equality." (*Letter to St. Joan's Alliance.*)

We protest against the sense imported by many newspaper correspondents into the word 'fraternisation' when it is applied to Allied occupying troops and the people of Germany. *The Times* correspondent's comment that "the anti-fraternisation policy will inevitably be modified under biological, if under no other form of pressure" was as typical as it was disagreeable and misleading. Fraternisation is desirable for a reason more honourable to humanity, that implied by General Smuts when, recently, he told the South African troops in Italy that "this war was fought for all people, and regardless of whether countries won or lost, they must become members of the world organisation." An attempt to segregate the German race would be unchristian, mischievous where it was not vain, and unstatesmanlike. But to lift the ban on 'fraternisation' only to allow the fighting men to have intimate relations with German women would be to insult these men and these women.

The practice of obliging shoppers to queue has gone on too long. It has been the result of bad management, if not of profiteering, quite as much as of economic necessity, and has entailed much unnecessary fatigue and inconvenience for housewives.

On August 2nd, an Anti-Queue Conference, convened by the N.C.W. and the Council of Retail Distributors, was held at the Waldorf Hotel. Thirty-two national organisations of women and traders attended as well as observers from the four Ministries affected and the Board of Trade. The Conference recommended speedier demobilisation of skilled labour; collaboration of women's organisations with local trade associations; petrol and permits for increased delivery and transport of food; increase in the amount of food available.

From the time of the imprisonment of the suffragettes, the need for women Governors of women's prisons has been increasingly realised, and now after patient and persevering efforts, Holloway Gaol has its first woman Governor, Dr. D. M. C. Taylor, and Miss M. M. Davies has been appointed Deputy-Governor. Much work is still needed before such appointments receive their due reward, the rate for the job.

## International Notes

### The Pope and Equal Pay.

Pope Pius XIIth, speaking to Italian Catholic women workers on VJ Day, said:

"Industrial inventions have saved the housewife much of her old work; industrial development has, on the other hand, forced large numbers of women to leave the domestic circle and to work in factories and offices. Many regretted this, but it was to-day impossible to turn back. . . . If the woman has to work in factory or business then she should with double intensity give husband and children her constant care and love."

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

**"Both men and women should make use of their political rights in the service of justice."**

This statement from His Holiness is of the greatest consolation and encouragement to us in our long fight for our political rights and equal pay, often against prejudiced and ill-informed 'pious opponents.'

**Malta.** The National Assembly on July 20th adopted equal franchise for men and women at 21. In the debate, proposals were made for differing qualifications for men and women as regards age and illiteracy. Both Mrs. Burns de Bono and Miss Buhagiar spoke strongly in favour of equality. We congratulate the Maltese women and hope that this measure will be embodied in the new Constitution.

**Palestine.** *The International Women's News* records the death of a great Jewish woman, Henrietta Szold, founder of the Women's Zionist Organisation in America. In 1920 she migrated to Palestine, where from 1931 as a member of the Palestine Elective Assembly she was in charge of a new Department of Social Welfare. Later she devoted herself to settling in Palestine Jewish children rescued from Germany.

**South Africa.** Father B. Huss, C.M.M., has written in the *Southern Cross* on African nuns who, he says, are a great help in the Missions. Entrance conditions are stringent, several years pass before they take their final vows. Owing to the great need for nurses and teachers, suitable younger sisters are trained for these callings and have proved most successful. Religious vocations are increasing, but as Father Huss says, "the great trouble is the lobola custom. The fathers want to get the dowry cattle for their daughters, therefore for many girls it is difficult, or even impossible, to get permission to enter the congregation. In many cases it means a great trial for girls to persevere in spite of ill-treatment." For example, one Zulu girl who wished to become a nun, twice ran away from home. She was caught and beaten terribly by her father, locked up and starved. She was only released by his unexpectedly sudden death. She has been a professed sister for many years.

**U.S.A.** Father Wilfrid Parsons, S.J., in *America*, voices his admiration for Frances Perkins on her retirement from office. She was the first woman Cabinet Minister, and for 12 years Secretary of Labour. Owing to her modesty many people were unaware of the large part she played in labour legislation.

*The Interracial Review* records the appointment of the first member of the Negro race to the staff of Smith College. Mrs. Adelaide Cromwell Hill is instructor of sociology. The same *Review* also mentions Mrs. Margaret Criswell Hiawatha, "No. 1 Policewoman in the State of New Jersey," testifying to her efficient work in curbing juvenile delinquency. The Police department presented her with a gold badge. Mrs. Hiawatha is a Catholic.

## Parliament Month by Month

The new Parliament met on the first of August to elect the Speaker. What with "For he's a jolly good fellow" and "The Red Flag" it was a very musical welcome to the return of the Party system. So much so, in fact, that Colonel Clifton Brown, who was re-elected with unanimous approval, although a member of the Opposition, remarked, "I wondered whether I was going to be elected Speaker of the House or Director of a musical show!"

With the Debate on the Address, however, the new House showed itself to be extremely serious and well-informed. The level of maiden speeches on both sides was very high. The only woman, as yet, was Mrs. Middleton, who succeeded Lady Astor to the Sutton Division of Plymouth. She spoke during the debate on Foreign Affairs and emphasised the need for our plying our oars "as manfully and as womanfully as we can" towards international co-operation and peace.

Housing was much discussed, of course, and Lieut.-Colonel Derek Walker-Smith produced a fine example of the elaborate metaphor when he described the Government as fishing in the troubled waters of Housing only to catch the red herring of divided responsibility, and trying to sustain the people on the resulting colourful but unsubstantial diet.

There was a two-day debate on the United Nations Charter, opened on the second day by Miss Ellen Wilkinson, which produced a further crop of interesting maiden speeches. In fact, so good were the majority that Vernon Bartlett was driven to ask the indulgence of the House for an *old* member.

Miss Rathbone appealed on behalf of the Jews, and

## The New Parliament.

There are 24 women in the new Parliament, with the exception of Viscountess Davidson (U., Hemel Hempstead), Lady Megan Lloyd George (Lib., Anglesey) and Miss Eleanor Rathbone (Ind. Combined Universities), all are Labour members viz.: Mrs. Adamson (Bexley), Miss Bacon (Leeds, N.E.), Mrs. Braddock (Liverpool, Exchange), Mrs. Castle (Blackburn), Miss Colman (Tynemouth), Mrs. Corbet (Camberwell, N.W.), Mrs. Ganley (Battersea, S.), Mrs. Ayrton Gould (Hendon, N.), Mrs. Heribson (Lanark, Northern), Miss J. Lee (Cannock), Mrs. Mann (Coatbridge), Mrs. Manning (Epping), Mrs. Middleton (Plymouth, Sutton), Mrs. Nichol (Bradford, N.), Lady Noel Buxton (Norwich), Mrs. Paton (Rushcliffe), Mrs. Ridealgh (Ilford, N.), Mrs. C. M. Shaw (Kilmarnock), Dr. Summerskill (Fulham, W.), Miss E. Wilkinson (Jarrow), and Mrs. Wills (Birmingham, Duddleston).

Of these, Miss Ellen Wilkinson, Minister of Education, is a Cabinet Minister; Dr. Summerskill, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Food; Mrs. Adamson, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Pensions.

We are sorry for the defeat of some well-tried supporters in the battle for equality, in particular Mrs. Cazalet Keir, Mrs. Tate, and Miss Irene Ward.

Among the fifteen Catholic M.P.s we are glad to note two champions of equal pay in the last Parliament, Dr. H. B. Morgan and Mr. Richard Stokes. We trust that Mr. Hollis will be brought to a change of heart in his new environment.

The Alliance proposes to form a group of members who will go regularly to the House of Commons to attend debates and make the acquaintance of their M.P.s in order to discuss with them the points on our programme, and in particular to lobby them when any special point arises. Will members who would like to take part in this work please send in their names to me at the office?

MONICA O'CONNOR, Hon. Secretary  
St. Joan's Parliamentary Committee.

asked this country to set an example of sacrifice by cutting rations yet further, if need be, in order to help starving Europe.

The questions during this short period were mostly about demobilisation and allied subjects, but there were one or two of special interest to us. Lieut.-Colonel Dower asked about domestic help for mothers with families of children, but Mr. Isaacs feared "there would be no substantial amelioration in the present shortage of domestic workers" for the time being, though the highest priority was being given to households suffering from exceptional hardship.

Major Baker White and Mr. George Thomas raised once more the question of a grant to the Women's Land Army. Mr. Williams replied that the suggestion had been turned down by the late Government and went on to say: "I have since re-examined the matter most sympathetically but I am afraid that I am unable to hold out any hope of a reversal of the previous decision." The House expressed considerable dissatisfaction.

The woman members, old and new, have already started asking questions. Miss Rathbone's activity on such subjects as Indian prisons, refugees from Mauritius, and UNRRA was only to be expected. Mrs. Middleton, Mrs. Paton and Mrs. Manning have also begun the good work with questions on Plymouth building, inadequate school accommodation and Government grants to schools, respectively. When Parliament meets again on October 9th, we shall have the opportunity of following the activities of the other "new girls."

B. M. HALPERN.

On the eve of the opening of the new Parliament, the Status of Women Committee held a mass meeting at the Central Hall, Westminster, at which the newly elected women M.P.s were invited to speak.

The chairman, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, said the women's organisations united in the Equal Status Committee called upon the new Government to establish the equality of women before the law in nationality and other matters; equal pay and opportunity in the Government services and in insurance schemes. Lady Noel-Buxton, a former M.P., said she hoped that soon it would no longer be necessary to hold such meetings as this to demand our equal rights. Mrs. Manning, also a former M.P., pleaded for the abolition of the marriage bar in public service and provision to enable women to marry and have a family as well as a career if they so wished. Mrs. Braddock, a newcomer to Parliament, has served her apprenticeship in local government. She was surprised at the number of women's organisations and begged women to join their political parties. She prided herself on being a working-class woman, outspoken and determined, and promised she would "not keep quiet"—"I am not a feminist; I believe that I am just as good as any man." Dr. Summerskill believed that women's organisations were still necessary and spoke of the unsatisfactory economic position of the housewife. She begged women never to forget the debt they owed to the stalwarts of the women's movement, and mentioned Mr. Pethick Laurence, present on the platform. Miss Eleanor Rathbone, with her long Parliamentary experience, recalled how so many women M.P.s had said on their first appearance at Westminster, "I am not a feminist" but after a short time they had come up against so many problems that affect the status of women that they had become more feminist than herself.

The chairman closed the meeting by reading the letter sent to the Prime Minister from the Status Committee begging that women's equality before the law be included in the King's Speech.

## Personalia

We offer our heartiest congratulations to that veteran of the Votes for Women campaign—the ex-prisoner—Mr. Pethick Lawrence, on his re-election to the House of Commons, and later, on his elevation to the House of Lords as Baron Pethick Laurence of Peaslake, Secretary for India and Burma. We send our affectionate greetings to him and to Lady Pethick Lawrence.

The farewell tea-party to Miss E. M. Turner to mark her retirement from the office of secretary to the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, was an informal and friendly occasion. Miss Turner has served the Association ably and valiantly for many years, first as lieutenant to Alison Neilans and then as her successor. In both capacities her work has touched on ours again and again; often we have been enlightened by her special knowledge and experience. She was moreover our fellow fighter in the days of the Suffrage campaign.

Our regret at seeing her leave her post is mitigated by the certainty that she retires not to be idle but to change her occupations. What these will be, in addition to the interest in public life she will surely maintain, was indicated by some of the gifts made to her at the party—a large crystal jug for flowers, and two rare books on apple-growing. We wish her great happiness in her garden and her orchard. She was also presented with an antique tray and a cheque. The Alliance was represented at the party.

On behalf of the Alliance, Miss Graham placed flowers on Mrs. Pankhurst's statue on July 14th, her birthday. An inscription stated that the flowers were given by Catholic suffragists "in admiration and gratitude."

St. Joan's Alliance, remembering gratefully the part Laurence Housman played in winning votes for women (he was a member of the Men's League for Woman Suffrage), adds its good wishes to the many he has received on his eightieth birthday. It also congratulates that uncompromising suffragist, Bernard Shaw, on attaining his ninetieth birthday.

In the past few weeks we rejoice to have been able to renew contacts with more of our colleagues from abroad. By kind invitation of the N.C.W. we met officers of the N.C.W. of France and at a party given by the Maison Belge, the president of the International Council of Women, Baroness Boel, and our co-religionist, Miss Baetens of Belgium. Among the French visitors we were especially pleased to meet the Comtesse Jean de Pange, who is a member of *l'Alliance Ste Jeanne d'Arc* and one-time president of the *Societe d'Etudes Africaines*. Representatives of the Alliance had the pleasure of entertaining her to luncheon and afterwards escorting her to the W.R.N.S. garden-party at Bedford College where she met Dame Vera Laughton Mathews. Madame de Pange brought us news of the president and secretary of *l'Alliance* and of their splendid work during the occupation.

By kind invitation of the W.I.L. another welcome visitor we met was Miss Gertrude Baer, recently arrived from the U.S.A.

The Alliance was represented at the Newman Centenary Conference at Beaumont by Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell.

Congratulations to our newest member of committee, Margaret Whittles, on her marriage to Inst. Lieutenant-Commander B. J. Morgan, R.N. We wish them both all happiness.

## The Significance of San Francisco—continued.

measure of public support behind it. As Mr. Stettinius pointed out, the signing of the Charter is only the establishment of a beachhead in the struggle for peace and unity. The intelligent interest and active support of every citizen must be mobilised if the vast hinterland is eventually to be captured. Those who believe as we do in the Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God ought to be able to support more readily and more easily this rather stumbling effort to give the necessary political expression to man's fundamental unity.

Hearty thanks to our **Liverpool and District Branch** for their generous donation of £5, this being part proceeds of the most successful Annual Party held at Birkenhead on September 1st.

## TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

*Katherine Tynan in "The Catholic Citizen,"  
August, 1920.*

"It was Napoleon who said, 'I do not want nuns, give me mothers.' Well, the only institution for children I know which is at least a good substitute for the home and the mother, is run by nuns. I nearly embraced the nun with the real heart of a mother who told me the little girls of the Orphanage wound up the day with a dance, that each had her party frock, made by herself—if she was old enough, with the assistance of a nun—the design, chosen by herself from the paper pattern book. Also the nun was eloquent on pretty hair ribbons for the children. There were orphan children, or deserted children, or the children of criminals; and the spirit towards the children was the spirit of the Mother of Our Lord."—*Mothers' Pensions.*

## The largest

# CATHOLIC HOSPITAL

*in the South of England*

The Hospital was founded in 1856 by four Sisters of Mercy on their return with Florence Nightingale from the Crimean War.

The Hospital contains 158 beds, including 31 beds for Paying Patients. Private rooms are available from 8 gns. per week. Eight beds are set aside for Priests and Nuns from the Diocese of Westminster.

Trained Nurses sent to patients' own homes. Apply to the Superintendent in charge of the Trained Nurses' Institute, 34 Circus Road, N.W.8.

Telephone: Primrose 2788.

## THE HOSPITAL OF ST. JOHN

### & ST. ELIZABETH

60 Grove End Road, St. John's Wood, N.W.8

We offer our deep sympathy to our member, Dr. Straton, on the death of her mother, Mrs. Adams Clark. May she rest in peace.