

# THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

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

Francis Thompson

## Portrait of Lord Pethick Lawrence

By P. D. Cummins

To chronicle the achievements of a great man is comparatively easy; to capture the essence of his personality is a task that has defeated many biographers. Vera Brittain, whose friendship with Lord Pethick Lawrence began shortly after her book "Testament of Youth" came out in 1933, has succeeded brilliantly on both counts, and has given us a memorable portrait of the idealist who throughout his long life never fell below the high standards he had set himself.

But for his integrity, his selflessness, his burning love of justice, his dedication to the cause of the oppressed, Frederick William Lawrence would have risen rapidly to the fore in the political sphere. He had already been adopted as the Liberal Unionist candidate for North Lambeth when, in 1899, at the Mansfield House Settlement in Canning Town, he met Emmeline Pethick who was staunchly pro-Boer, and could not share the views of his party. Frederick whose personal ambitions always came second to his social conscience, went to South Africa to size up the facts for himself, and what he learnt from Olive Schreiner and other notable South Africans convinced him that the war was unjust. On his return to England, he relinquished his candidature, and joined the Liberal Party—his first swing to the Left.

In the Autumn of 1901, he and Emmeline were married, and he added her name to his own. The *Echo*, the radical paper that he had bought before going to South Africa, brought the couple into close touch with Keir Hardie who alone represented Independent Labour in Parliament, and who had been one of the early advocates of woman's suffrage. It was Keir Hardie who introduced them to the Pankhursts.

The meeting altered the entire course of Pethick's life. Emmeline became financial secretary of the

struggling WSPU, Frederick installed the Committee in rooms beneath his own in Clement's Inn. It meant the complete disruption of his domestic life, for Emmeline was soon so snowed under with work that he could only see her "by appointment". As the Suffragist, Pethick's nobility of character shone out at its brightest; he gave of himself unstintingly, not only spiritually but materially, bailing out more than a thousand women (one of them, Helen Craggs, was destined to become his second wife) and providing money for their defence. Vera Brittain has drawn a most graphic picture of the part played by Pethick in the epic struggle, a part which culminated in the historic Bow Street trial and his financial ruin. Twenty years later, Emmeline wrote: "He underwent every variation of the sacrifice demanded for the freedom of women: imprisonment—hunger strike—forcible feeding—bankruptcy—expulsion from his club. . . I have always been glad that, deep as is the love between us, he never took up the cause for my sake, but as the result of our common outlook." Undoubtedly the cruellest blow the Pethick Lawrences suffered was the break with Mrs. Pankhurst, but such was their stature that they rose above it grandly; their admiration for her remained undimmed, their love for her daughters unchanged. When Christabel died in 1958, Lord Pethick Lawrence as he was then, paid tribute to her in an article published in *The Catholic Citizen*: "The Girl Who Slew the Dragon".

Part Two of the biography is devoted to Frederick Lawrence, the Socialist. Vera Brittain writes movingly of the frustrations, the disappointments that were his lot; it was not until 1922 when he was over fifty that his hopes were realised and he took his seat in the Commons as Labour Member for Leicester West. (The defeated Liberal candidate was none other than Winston Churchill.) There were many ups and downs in his political career, but at long last, after the Second World War, he

Pethick Lawrence. A Portrait, by Vera Brittain. Allen & Unwin (25s.).

came into his own. Within a few days of the 1945 General Election which swept Labour into power, Clement Attlee asked him to go to the House of Lords as Secretary of State for India and Burma. He was then in his seventy-fourth year.

The story of the special Cabinet mission sent out to India in 1946 to try and seek an agreement with the Indian leaders in framing a constitution makes fascinating reading. The long and difficult negotiations, the endless journeys in suffocating heat might well have broken a far younger man, but unfailingly, Pethick displayed the most exquisite patience and tact. Throughout he was upborne by faith. In a letter to his wife he wrote: "I have commended myself to God for Him to fit my little piece of Himself into His great plan as He thinks best." At the end, even his hopeful self-confidence was undermined by a sense of failure, but in fact the mission did not fail; it succeeded in paving the way for the settlement of the dominions of India and Pakistan.

Pethick's years lay lightly on him; his powers never failed, and only six weeks before his death, he made a memorable speech in the House of Lords, a closely-argued criticism of the measures suggested by the Chancellor of the Exchequer for dealing with the economic situation. He never retreated into old age. Vera Brittain records that although he belonged to her father's generation, she never found him anything but contemporary. "Nor was his self-identification with younger generations confined to the one that followed his own," she adds, recalling to us that eighty-four and twenty-four met without barriers when Lord Pethick Lawrence gave his active support to her daughter, now Shirley Williams, when she stood as Labour candidate for the Harwich Division of Essex.

The Status of Women Committee (not the Fawcett Society as Vera Brittain says) had arranged a party for Lord Pethick Lawrence's ninetieth anniversary to which he looked forward eagerly. But the sands were running out. "I should have liked to have lived to my ninetieth birthday," he said wistfully to his faithful secretary, Esther Knowles. "And if you don't?" she said gently, "are you ready, P.L.?" "Yes, my dear, absolutely ready," he answered, "I've had nearly fourscore years and ten; I have been a very fortunate man."

It was an affirmation of the philosophy which had enabled his spirit to rise serene above the trials, the disappointments, the sorrows of his life: "There is really no satisfaction to be got out of brooding over things that have gone wrong . . . it is often not very difficult to entice the mind to contemplate instead the things that have gone right. . ." Not very difficult perhaps for a man of his calibre, but for those of lesser stature well-nigh impossible.

On September 10th, 1961, Lord Pethick Lawrence died peacefully in his sleep.

## SLAVERY

It is gratifying that the following resolution, submitted by the United Kingdom and co-sponsored by Argentina, Austria, Italy, Senegal and the United States of America, (E/AC. 7/L.424) was adopted by ECOSOC at its 36th Session in Geneva by 14-0 with 3 abstentions:

- (1) *Recalling* the ECOSOC resolution 525 (A) (XVII) and 563 (XIX) and article 4 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which states that no-one shall be held in slavery or servitude and that slavery and the slave trade be prohibited in all its forms.
- (2) *Believing* that slavery, the slave trade and all institutions and practices similar to slavery should be abolished.
- (3) *Considering* that there exists a need for accurate, comprehensive and up-to-date information of the extent to which slavery, the slave trade and all institutions and practices similar to slavery still persist today.
- (4) *Requests* the Secretary-General.
  - (i) to appoint a special Rapporteur on slavery, who shall bring up-to-date the Eugen report (E/2673) by collecting information on slavery from Member Governments, Specialised Agencies and Non-Governmental Organisations in Consultative Status, and shall present his report to the Council at its summer session in 1965;
  - (ii) to formulate in consultation with the special Rapporteur a questionnaire on slavery for circulation to States members of the United Nations, the Specialised Agencies and interested N.G.O.'s in Consultative Status with the object of putting full information on slavery at the disposal of the Special Rapporteur.
- (5) *Decides* to retain the subject of slavery on the agenda of its session in 1964.

On July 3rd, statements by representatives of six International N.G.O.'s were heard by the Council Committee on N.G.O.'s—including one by Mademoiselle Archinard, the representative of St. Joan's International Alliance.

## BOOKS RECEIVED

**Fieldhouse's Income Tax Simplified.** By H. E. D. Ayling, A.A.C.C.A., A.S.C.T. (Arthur Fieldhouse 4s. 6d.)

The book covers this complex subject in a friendly yet thorough manner and is up to date to the Budget 1963.

We regret that in our review of "Your Child's World" by Robert P. Odenwald (Robert Hale) the price 12s. 6d. was omitted.

## Notes and Comments

### ST. JOAN'S INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE

According to custom, Holy Mass will be offered at Freiburg to beg Divine Guidance on the Twentieth Council Meeting. This will be at 8 a.m. on Saturday, September 7th at the Albertus Magnus Bourse.

The President, Madame Leroy-Boy will open the Council Meeting at 10 a.m. on Saturday, September 7th in the Rathaus. Before settling down to business, delegates will have an opportunity of meeting the President and getting to know one another, on the coach excursion arranged for Friday, September 6th, starting at 10 a.m. with lunch at Schauninsland.

Our German colleagues have also kindly arranged for delegates to have a conducted tour of the famous Cathedral at Freiburg.

Ten members from this country will be attending the Council and are greatly looking forward to meeting their German hostesses and delegates from other countries.

This Council Meeting is of particular importance and promises to be a very lively one.

\* \* \*

We mourn with the Catholic community of this country, the death of the Apostolic Delegate, Archbishop O'Hara. It was through his intermediary that our letter to His Holiness Pope John XXIII was sent, and His Holiness' precious message was transmitted to us, R.I.P.

\* \* \*

The following resolution adopted by ECOSOC at the 36th Session held in Geneva in July: "*Draws the attention* of States Members to the desirability of ensuring that women have equal opportunities with men of representing their country as delegates, advisers and experts on international commissions, committees and similar bodies and to the special advantage of representation by women wherever social and economic problems and opportunities of women are under consideration.

It was particularly gratifying that this unexpected resolution was sponsored by the U.K.

\* \* \*

The Ministry of Labour which carries out a survey of earnings twice a year, in April and October, shows that women's earnings averaged £8 3s. 9d. a week last April, an increase of 4.2 per cent since the previous April. The average weekly earnings of men rose to £16 3s. 1d., but the increase in their case was less: 3.3 per cent.

\* \* \*

The Public Lavatories (Turnstile) Act, backed by all the women M.P.s, has received the Royal Assent. Historical though they may be, "ladies" will certainly not regret the passing of these labyrinthine inconveniences!

A Survey by the Advisory Centre for Education published in its quarterly *Where?* argues that a "qualified" boy has four times as much chance as a "qualified" girl to enter Oxford and Cambridge. In 1960-1, they admitted 4,800 first degree students, only 12 per cent of whom were women, as compared with 30 per cent at other universities. For every 100 girls who had gained two A level subjects, the minimum qualification for university entrance, the maintained schools had only two entrants. This compared with seven from direct grant and eight from independent schools. Cambridge accepted less than a dozen girls a year from manual worker's homes. The Centre is anxious that a Government unit should be established to investigate ways in which educational chances for women can be increased.

\* \* \*

At the conference in York, the executive council of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions decided to set up a sub-committee under the new president, Mr. John Boyd, to prepare a plan for higher-grade ratings for women who are capable of skilled jobs. As Mr. Boyd said: "The Unions have struggled to secure the male labourer's rate of pay (£8 9s. 10d.) for women who at present receive a basic rate of £6 18s 6d. The grading scheme, however, is a new and revolutionary approach." Let us hope that it will lead to a new deal for the 500,000 women engineering workers.

\* \* \*

Six and a half million women are now employed in industry, more than ever before. At the conference of the Transport and General Workers' Union in Scarborough, it was announced that there is to be an intensive recruiting drive to bring an increasing number of women into trade unions. Mrs. E. E. Seckerson, London, rightly said that not nearly enough encouragement is given to women who wish to participate in union matters; indeed, many of those who attempted to speak at branch meetings were made the target for sarcastic remarks such as "Go home and mind the kids." Mr. Harry Nicholas, assistant general secretary, told the 750 delegates that the Union was at present investigating the possibility of appointing more women officers. We take this opportunity of stressing that it is *essential* to appoint them.

\* \* \*

A nun in Rome, a friend of the Alliance, pays us the following tribute: "My appreciation and thanks for the vision and courage of St. Joan's Alliance."

\* \* \*

Mrs. Shirley Williams, a member of the Alliance, has been adopted as Labour candidate for the Hitchin Division of Hertfordshire. We send her our best wishes.

## ST. JOAN'S ALLIANCE

founded 1911

BRITISH SECTION OF ST. JOAN'S INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE

AND

Editorial Office of "The Catholic Citizen"

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

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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## L'article 119 du Traité de Rome

## Sera-t-il Appliqué ?

En signant le traité de Rome le 25 mars 1957, la Belgique s'est engagée à assurer l'égalité de rémunération entre les travailleuses et les travailleurs masculins.

Une résolution de Conseil de la Communauté Economique Européenne précise le 30 Décembre 1961 qu'il s'agit pour les signataires d'éliminer des conventions collectives (barème ou accords de salaires) toute discrimination fondée sur le sexe. Ceci vaut tant pour les salaires minima que pour les taux de rémunération afférents aux diverses qualifications. Le timing de la C.E.E. précise que les salaires féminins devront atteindre 85% des salaires masculins au 30 juin 1962, 90% au 30 juin 1963 et 100% au 31 décembre 1964.

Dans son rapport du 30 juin 1962 la C.E.E. constate déjà des lacunes et des retards par rapport à ce calendrier tant dans notre pays que chez ses partenaires.

Les carences constatées portent sur :

- des différences de salaires de plus de 15%
- des pratiques de déclassement systématique de la main d'oeuvre féminine.
- des mesures législatives insuffisantes.
- des moyens de contrôle presque inexistantes.

Se basant sur les constatations du rapport de la Commission de la Communauté Economique Européenne, le Conseil International des Travailleuses de la C.I.S.C. a adopté une résolution concernant l'application de l'article 119 du Traité de Rome dans les pays membres.

Les progrès accomplis dans notre pays concernent surtout le secteur "employées". Or si 150.900 travailleuses sont employées dans ce secteur, la grande majorité des femmes actives 295.500, travaillent dans le secteur ouvrier ou les progrès sont moins sensibles.

Pour les travailleuses manuelles les 85% du salaire masculin ne sont atteints que dans les secteurs qui emploient une main d'oeuvre féminine peu importante. L'écart est encore de plus de 15% dans les sept grands secteurs industriels qui emploient les quatre cinquièmes des ouvrières. Pour la majorité des travailleuses les 90% du salaire masculin ne seront donc pas atteints comme prévu au 30 juin 1963.

En Belgique, comme dans la plupart des pays européens le gouvernement n'a pas d'action directe sur le taux des salaires. Au sein des commissions paritaires employeurs et travailleurs concluent librement des conventions collectives. A la demande des intéressés le gouvernement peut rendre ces conventions obligatoires pour toute la branche d'industries intéressées. Un des moyens de pression dont pourrait disposer le gouvernement c'est de refuser le caractère obligatoire aux conventions qui ne reflètent pas les accords européens sur les salaires. Mais le moyen s'avère peu efficace, le caractère obligatoire étant rarement réclamé.

Les états membres de la C.E.E. se sont engagés le 30-12-61 à assurer aux travailleuses l'application du principe d'égalité de telle façon qu'il puisse être protégé par les tribunaux. Pour cela il faut prendre en Belgique des mesures législatives. Des parlementaires sociaux chrétiens veulent les susciter. Les députés Schyns, de Riemaecker, Verlucht, Behogne et Verhenne ont déposé une proposition de loi (n° 491) le 30 janvier 1963 qui éveille beaucoup d'espoir chez les travailleuses. D'après cette proposition dont deux signataires sont des femmes députées si aux dates prévues par le timing de la C.E.E. les partenaires sociaux n'ont pu se mettre d'accord sur des rémunérations qui respectent l'accord international, le ministre de l'Emploi et du travail pourrait suppléer à leur carence et déter-

miner la rémunération des travailleurs féminins dans le secteur défaillant.

Il nous semble que tous ceux qui ont souci de justice sociale doivent appuyer cette mesure. Mais on ne résoud pas pareille question par des mesures autoritaires, sans un effort conjoint du gouvernement et des partenaires sociaux. Pour que ceux-ci consentent à se laisser forcer le main il faut créer le climat favorable à l'égalité, il faut développer la volonté d'aboutir.

Il faut fermer les parapluies derrière lesquels s'abritent le gouvernement qui évoque les retards de ses partenaires européens, et les employeurs qui soulignent les manquements de la concurrence étrangère.

Mais il faut aussi que l'opinion publique rappelle aux travailleurs qu'accepter des salaires dépréciés pour une partie de la main d'oeuvre risque de nuire à l'ensemble des travailleurs.

F. Baetens

## THE UNMARRIED MOTHER

We learn from the Annual Report of the National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child that the Legal and Parliamentary Committee has been strengthened by the inclusion amongst its members of the President who sits in the House of Lords, and three M.P.'s: Sir Hugh Lucas-Tooth, Mr. John Parker and Miss Joan Vickers. A report outlining the matters which still seem to require attention was sent out by the Chairman to the relevant societies and social workers; their suggestions are now being studied, and a final report is being prepared.

The Council aims to put an end to the apparent conflict between the Adoption Act 1958 and Section Three of the Legitimacy Act of 1959 which gives the natural father the right to apply for the custody of his child. The Council believes that in proper cases this right should be preserved, but that it should not operate to delay or obstruct adoption proceedings. It has been alleged that in some instances courts have ordered access without fully taking into consideration all the circumstances of an individual case and the motives of the natural father. Furthermore, the natural father's right to claim access to his child under Section Three of the Legitimacy Act is a source of anxiety to many social workers who have submitted evidence of cases in which it has affected the welfare of mother and child. The Council believes that the welfare of the child is the prime consideration, and is co-operating with other societies, in particular, the Standing Conference of Societies Registered for Adoption, to urge that the matter should be cleared up.

With regard to the victims of crimes of violence, the Council has written to the Home Secretary to express its disagreement with the Government White Paper which holds that compensation should not be payable in respect of pregnancy resulting from rape because the mother can have

the child adopted. The Council appreciates that in this type of case it is difficult to distinguish the genuine from the dishonest claim, but it points out that the mother may wish to keep her baby, and this may be in the best interests of both. Should she not wish to do so, the child born to the victim may often not be easily placed for adoption. The Home Secretary has undertaken to bear the Council's views in mind.

The Council will fully support the Bill to be introduced by Mr. John Parker, M.P., designed to confer British nationality on illegitimate children born abroad to British mothers who would otherwise be stateless.

The effect of third party adoptions continues to concern the Council, and it is anxious to see the introduction of legislation requiring the third party in such adoptions to register the placement in the area in which he or she resides, as well as in the area in which the child is placed.

The Council considers that the whole question of the future of legal and social policy for children born out of wedlock and their parents should be reconsidered, and the Chairman of the Legal and Parliamentary Committee is now in process of setting up an *ad hoc* committee to examine these wide problems.

P.D.C.

## I.L.O.

Representations were made by several Women's International Organisations, including St. Joan's Alliance, at the 47th Session of the International Labour Conference held in Geneva in June, concerning the Termination of Employment at the Initiative of the Employer. The women requested that the words "marriage" and "maternity" should be inserted after the word "sex" in the list of categories which should not constitute valid reasons for termination of employment. The Conference did not accept these two words but agreed to include "marital status". This is at least a step forward.

The final text reads as follows:

II Standards of General Application

3 (d) race, colour, sex, marital status, religion, political opinion, national extraction or social origin.

The final draft of this clause was passed by 167-7 with 6 abstentions.

**Australia—Victoria.** To aid the Freedom from Hunger Campaign, May and June were months of special self-denial. The money handed in by members from their acts of self-denial amounted to £91, and on behalf of St. Joan's Alliance Victoria Section, a cheque for £91 was sent to the Victoria Appeal Committee. Considering many members had also contributed through other affiliations this effort was considered very satisfactory.

## The Month in Parliament

### Corruption in Sweet Packets

Mr. Milne asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department to introduce legislation to ban the inclusion of undesirable picture cards in packaged sweets and goods on sale. Mr. Brooke replied that he had seen some of these cards but did not think that they called for special legislation. (July 2nd). A few days later Mr. Milne questioned the Minister of Education on the same subject. Sir Edward Boyle replied that he had no power to suppress the sale of these things. Could he not then, suggested Mr. Milne, discuss the matter with the Home Secretary who has such power. Sir Edward said, "I am bound to say that I doubt whether legislation would be the right way. These cards are absolutely deplorable but what struck me about them was not so much that they were frightening or corrupting as that they were absolutely shoddy and contemptible. I would rather see this sort of thing dealt with by public opinion." Mr. Milne said that the Minister was responsible for the moral protection of school-children. Mrs. Slater said these answers would not get the cards withdrawn, and that something should be done by the Government. But Sir Edward repeated that he preferred to leave the matter to public opinion. (July 4th).

### United Nations

Because of pressure of business the Secretary General of the United Nations has recommended that the Status of Women Commission, the Human Rights and Social Commissions, and the Commission on Population shall not take place in 1964. Miss Vickers asked the Lord Privy Seal what action is being taken by the Government. The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Thomas, answered that the Government intend to give this recommendation their full support. He did not agree with Miss Vickers that this was a retrograde step. He added that the Secretary General had already been assured of the British Government's approval. (July 15th).

### Publicity About Child Victims of Assault

Mr. Howell (Perry Barr, Birmingham) proposed an amendment to the Children and Young Persons Bill (Lords) whereby newspapers would be prohibited from publishing the name and the address or school of child victims of rape. Mr. Howell and others spoke of the additional distress caused by, and the dangers arising from, such publicity. Sir B. Janner said that to make a child victim's name public was a criminal act. He reminded the House that it is already against the law to publish details identifying the child once a man has been charged, and that the slight extension asked for in no way constituted an attack on the press. Mr. Howell said that he had discussed the matter with the newspapers and that, without exception, they had approved of his action. Miss Mervyn Pike, Joint

Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, opposed the amendment. She said, "This is not the occasion for us to tackle the whole principle of the freedom of the press. The whole problem should be tackled in the much wider context of society's responsibility." Mr. Howell was deeply shocked that a woman Minister should take this line. Miss Alice Bacon pointed out that if a child's name is published before an arrest is made and then publication is forbidden when the harm has already been done, it makes nonsense of the proceedings. She said that the welfare of the child was paramount. She admitted that there may be a number of young girls who would welcome unhealthy publicity but it would be against the interests of any children to allow it. "Indeed," she added, "in recent weeks we have seen prostitution become glamourised and we cannot really grumble if we find young girls thinking that prostitution leads to fame, fortune and films, not forgetting V.I.P. treatment at airports." Mr. Brooke, Secretary of State, supported Miss Pike and the Government rejected Mr. Howell's plea. (July 5th).

### Widows and the Earnings Rule

The indomitable Dame Irene Ward persuaded the Prime Minister to agree to meet her to discuss the matter of widows' pensions and deductions made under the earnings rule. She warned him that she would require action. Mr. MacMillan said that he was looking forward to the meeting with the lady—"but she must not frighten me too much before it takes place." (July 23rd).

### Unnecessary Committal to Prison

A Bill was ordered to be brought in by Mrs. Hart, Miss Vickers, Mr. Lubbock and Mr. Greenwood whereby young men and women ordered by a court of summary jurisdiction to pay a fine, on account of a minor offence, should be allowed seven days to find the money. At present young offenders, who have not the necessary cash with them when sentenced, are sent to prison, where they are subjected to all the degradation of admission procedure and put into contact with more serious offenders. (July 23rd).

### Employment of Young Persons

"Luckily no ladies are present to contradict me." With this comforting thought, Mr. Page proceeded to uphold the interests of "a man's world". The same priority, he maintained, should not be given to the training of girls as to that of boys. "I think that their training should come lower down the scale," he said, adding that the training of girls was less important. Although there were indeed no women present, Mr. Page was surprised into having to attempt to defend his opinions. Mr. Wainwright wanted a reason for this discrimination and Mr. Page had recourse to the well-worn and battered argument that girls are apt to get married and, in words reminiscent of the Victorian papa, added

## INTERNATIONAL NOTES

**Holland** The current number of *Endeavour* contains an extremely interesting analysis of "The Absent Housewife", a symposium of ten articles on the subject of married women workers by specialists in the field of psychology, economics, education and sociology, published on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Catholic National Bureau for Spiritual Health Care in the Netherlands. As the writer points out, it is a particularly important publication since it emanates from a sphere where the gainful employment of married women is generally regarded with strong disfavour.

All the Catholic contributors to "The Absent Housewife" show themselves well aware of the harmful effects of this traditional attitude, all have examined the prejudices that exist against the gainful employment of married women in every strata of Dutch society. The psychiatrist, Dr. Trimbos, for instance, discovered that the serious breakdowns of many of his married women patients were the result of a lack of any real purpose in life. When he talked to them of work, he found that they had been conditioned into rejecting the idea; only too often, the husbands and relatives of such a patient thought his advice strange and inappropriate. Dr. Van Meurs writing on the children of working wives, says that it is the nature of the relationship between mother and children that matters, not the number of hours they spend together. The strongest support for working wives comes perhaps from Mrs. Diemer who, attacking the myths that retard their employment outside the home, writes: "It is a sad reflection on Christianity that often battles have to be fought to provide wives with opportunities to develop in the full human sense, opportunities which their husbands enjoy as a matter of course."

\* \* \*

At the recent Dutch Parliamentary elections five members out of seventy-five members of the First Chamber were women: 2 Labour, 1 Catholic, 1 Liberal, 1 Communist.

Of the 150 members of the Second Chamber 15 are women: 5 Labour, 4 Catholic, 4 Liberal, 1 Protestant, 1 Anti-Revolutionary.

\* \* \*

Congratulations to Lydia M. R. Simons, the first woman to be awarded a doctorate in theology by the Catholic University of Nijmegen. She is a member of the Ladies of Bethany.

\* \* \*

**Pakistan.** A Bill has been introduced in the Pakistan National Assembly to repeal the Muslim laws ordinance. This ordinance, one of President Ayub's greatest achievements, made it difficult for a Pakistani to take more than one wife, raised the marriage age of girls from twelve to sixteen, and regularised the procedure of divorce so as to give more rights to the wife. The forces of religious orthodoxy

that a young man expects to keep his bride "in the state of life to which she has been accustomed". Mr. Finch reminded him that a woman who becomes a widow while under the age of fifty is not allowed a full pension because she is expected to be able to find employment. Mr. Page's next words did not seem to be advancing his argument very well: "What about a woman of fifty who never married?", he asked. "She is also expected to look after herself." Mr. Page declined to pursue the matter further: "As there are no hon. ladies present," he complained, "I did not expect all this amount of heat and excitement." This took place during a debate on the employment of young persons. Mr. Whitelaw, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Labour, concluded it with the words, "We are all united in our determination to see that boys and girls have the best possible start to their working lives. That is the clear objective of the Government's policy." (July 24th).

### The "Kiss and Make Up" Bill

Mr. Abse asked the House to accept two Lords' amendments to his Bill. The first was to disallow, as a ground for divorce, the revival of adultery which had been condoned. In doing so he asked the House to bear in mind that this amendment may give rise to marginal hardships; but he welcomed the clause as the best that can be done so long as the divorce law is based on the "doctrine of the matrimonial offence" instead of on the reality of the marriage, that is whether it has actually broken down or no, and on the interests of the children. The second amendment which was to omit the word "reconciliation" from the title of the Bill, he accepted with less enthusiasm. In the Upper House it had been pointed out that all previous Acts dealing with the subject were entitled "Matrimonial Causes Act" and the same title would be given to any such measures in future. The Lord Chancellor had objected that the word "reconciliation" referred less to the subject matter of the Bill than to the motives of its sponsors. Mr. Abse called this attitude "characteristically logical and characteristically unimaginative." The title given to the Bill by more imaginative journalists was likely however to persist.

**The Test Ban Agreement** was signed by Britain, the United States and Russia.

### Peerage Act

When the Royal Assent was given on July 31st to the Peerage Bill, the last discrimination against women in the Constitution was abolished.

C. M. Cheke

\* \* \*

The first hereditary peeress to announce that she will apply for a writ of summons to take her seat in the House of Lords is our co-religionist, Baroness Audley. We congratulate her and send her our best wishes for her work in the Upper Chamber.

attacking this ordinance maintain that "the notion that polygamy is detestable is born of a blind imitation of western ways of living and is absolutely un-Islamic. In Islam, polygamy is not only permissible, but in certain circumstances, desirable."

Opposing the changed marriage age, the dissidents argued that a girl attaining puberty at twelve "might be left to indulge in adultery for four years".

It seems that the Government is prepared to brave charges of being "un-Islamic" by supporting the bill of rights for the women of Pakistan; it should be able to find the majority to keep its reform ordinance in effect.

\* \* \*

**U.S.A. The Equal Pay for Women Bill** signed recently by President Kennedy affects some eight million women. The Bill applies only to workers in inter-state commerce; those producing goods for inter-state commerce and those employed at retail and service establishments doing business annually of one million dollars or more. Excluded from these categories are many businesses that employ large numbers of women such as laundries, hotels, restaurants, hospitals and motion picture theatres.

The Bill is to go into effect within a year but it may take two years where collective bargaining contracts are involved.

Under the new law, an employer is prohibited from reducing wages of other employees in order to give equal pay and no employee may be dismissed or discriminated against for lodging a complaint under the law.

#### TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

*P. C. Challoner in "The Catholic Citizen",  
July-August, 1938*

We have no wish to drive women into the labour market ("right" is not synonymous with "duty", which depends on many things) but we believe that talents were given to women, not to be frustrated, but used; that the parable of the Talents teaches a lesson for *all*; and that it is as wrong to use home duties to excuse idleness, as it is to justify neglect by attention to "good" or any works.

The principle by which we stand is that each woman shall be as free as every man to decide her way of life; that neither she nor her husband shall be coerced; that their family, their work, their economic position shall be their own affair, subject only to their voluntary submission to those moral principles which it is the office of religion to implant. . . . We believe that women's right to earn will neither hurt the family nor ruin the race, and, learning a lesson from the trend of events, we cherish freedom. We bear its cross, and consider that Free Will which could be ended at a word by Omnipotence, has evidently been seen by Omniscience, to be worth all the evils it has brought in its train.—*Marriage is in the Air.*

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