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# REPORT

OF THE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF THE

## Irish Women Citizens'

AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

## ASSOCIATION

FOR

1919.



**Dublin :**

PRINTED BY THE ORMOND PRINTING COMPANY, LIMITED.

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**NON-PARTY. NON-MILITANT.**

**OBJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION.**

- 1.—To promote the extension of the Parliamentary and Municipal Franchise to women on the same terms as men, and to secure equal opportunities for public service.
- 2.—To promote the registration of all women electors (Parliamentary and Local Government).
- 3.—To promote the election of suitable women as Members of Parliament, Poor Law Guardians, Rural, Urban, Borough, and County Councillors, and their appointment to all public offices for which they are eligible.
- 4.—To consider schemes for necessary legislation, and to work for the enforcement or amendment of existing laws.
- 5.—To supply information to women electors.

The Association seeks to achieve these objects by means of Drawing-room and Public Meetings; Petitions to the House of Commons; Letters to our Parliamentary Representatives, to the heads of Public Departments, and to the Press; the distribution of appropriate literature, etc.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 1920.**

MRS. COSGRAVE  
MRS. GWYNN  
MISS HAYDEN, M.A.  
MISS HARRISON  
MISS MELLONE  
MISS O'CONNELL

MISS PATTON  
MRS. SANDERSON  
MISS STACK  
MRS. TOWNSHEND  
MISS H. WARREN  
MISS WELDRICK, P.L.G.

**President:**

MRS. HASLAM, 3 Carlton Terrace, Rathmines.

**Vice-President:**

LADY DOCKRELL, J.P., U.D.C.

**Hon. Secretary, pro. tem.:**

MISS STORY, M.A., 5 Leinster Street.

**Hon. Treasurer:**

MRS. BEWLEY, P.L.G., 89 Merrion Square.

**COUNCIL.**

MISS BAGLEY  
MISS BARRETT  
MRS. BEWLEY, P.L.G.  
MISS BUCHANAN  
MISS CLINCH, P.L.G.  
MRS. M. COSGRAVE  
LADY DOCKRELL, J.P., U.D.C.  
MR. CHARLES EASON  
MRS. STEPHEN GWYNN  
MISS S. C. HARRISON  
MISS HARPUR  
MRS. HASLAM  
MISS HAYDEN, M.A.  
MISS H. M. HUTTON  
MISS LLOYD  
MISS MELLONE

MISS M'CLOUGHLIN  
MISS MACTIER  
MISS O'CONNELL  
REV. DENHAM OSBORNE  
D.D.  
MISS PATTON  
MRS. SANDERSON  
MISS STACK  
MRS. SMITH  
MRS. SOLOMONS  
MISS STORY  
MRS. TOWNSHEND  
MISS H. WARREN  
MISS H. WEBB  
LADY WRIGHT



Subscriptions for 1920 now due.]

REPORT  
OF THE  
COMMITTEE FOR 1919.

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THE Irish Women's Suffrage and Local Government Association met for the last time in January, 1919, but only to take on a fresh lease of life and fuller development under a new constitution, and as the Irish Women Citizens' and Local Government Association it has since then been carrying on energetically, still under the trusted leadership of Mrs. Haslam, with Lady Dockrell, J.P., U.D.C., as Vice-President.

The resignation of Mrs. Sanderson as Hon. Secretary and Treasurer was received with deep regret; only those who worked with her during her years of service can appreciate all she has done for the Society; as a member of the new Executive her advice and help are still welcomed.

Miss Patton consented to undertake the arduous duties of Hon. Treasurer, and Miss Story to act, *pro tem.*, as Hon. Secretary. Miss Mellone has no official title but is always ready to give valuable help.

Thanks are due to the Dublin Branch of the National Council of Women for lending the use of their office, and also for allowing their Hon. Secretary to act for the W.C.A., recognizing that they were thus furthering the objects of the National Council.

The new Council met on January 30th, and the new Executive in February. Since then the latter has met ten times, and various sub-committees have been active.

Mrs. Haslam and Mrs. C. L. Townshend represented the Association at the Annual Conference of the N.C.W. at Leicester. At the public meeting on "Women as Patrols and Police, as Magistrates, and on Juries, and in Police Court Work," Mrs. Haslam gave a report of the Irish Women Patrols to a large audience, who were impressed by the valuable work done by the Irish Patrols. The President then attended the meeting organised by the N.U.S.E.C. in London on the Women's Emancipation Bill, where she spoke, and was most cordially received, the flag of the Association being among the banners displayed in the hall.

In preparation for the Municipal Elections the Association was very active, every effort being made to secure efficient candidates and to help in their return. A letter from the President was sent to leading newspapers all over Ireland pointing out the rights and responsibilities of voters.

In co-operation with the National Council of Women (Dublin Branch) a successful meeting was held in the Mansion House, in October, on P.R. and Voters' Responsibilities. Lady Dockrell presided; Miss Hayden, Miss Mellone, and Professor Donovan spoke, and Mr. Aston conducted a model election, after which he and Mr. Humphreys answered numerous questions posed by the large and interested audience.



A special meeting of Council to discuss work for the elections was held on October 30th, when Mr. Eason, Mrs. Noel Guinness, Miss Harrison, and others spoke, and representatives were nominated at the request of the Municipal Reform Committee to act on that Committee. At the suggestion of Miss M'Loughlin, an Elections Sub-Committee was appointed to organize meetings and interest voters on non-party lines. This Sub-Committee (Miss Harrison, Miss Mellone, Miss Story, Miss Weldrick, P.L.G., with Miss M'Loughlin as Hon. Secretary, held fourteen meetings, at most of which model elections were carried out. Three were drawing-room meetings, the others were held in schoolhouses, clubs, tenement houses, and trade union halls. Thanks are due to the speakers, the hostesses, and all who helped in the work. A special vote of thanks was passed by the Executive to Miss M'Loughlin for her successful efforts.

Lady Dockrell is to be congratulated on heading the poll in her ward.

Among other work during the year legislation was carefully watched, the President being ever ready to supply the latest information on new developments. In many cases she wrote directly to the authorities or to individual members of Parliament, in others letters or resolutions were forwarded to all Irish M.P.'s and deputations organised. A conference of delegates from various societies was arranged to draw up a leaflet for women municipal voters, the W.C.A. being ready to co-operate with other societies working on similar lines.

In connection with Health Legislation action was taken by this Association and other societies, with the result that, under the pressure of women voters, the Bill for A Ministry of Health was applied to Ireland, and the Bill for Medical Treatment of School Children was made compulsory.

The Association worked for the Women's Emancipation Bill, which removed all sex-disqualification. On the failure of the Bill it supported the more restricted Government measure, under which women are now admitted to serve on juries, as magistrates, as solicitors and barristers. It was fitting that the Vice-President, Lady Dockrell, should be one of the first women magistrates appointed in Ireland.

Literature and leaflets were published, for which there has been demand from various centres in Ireland.

The following suffrage news is taken from the pages of *Jus Suffragii*, The International Woman Suffrage News:—

Continued progress is being made in the cause of Women's Enfranchisement in many lands.

The I.W.S.A. is holding its Convention next June, in Switzerland (not in Madrid as first proposed). In her call to this eighth Congress, the President, Mrs. Chapman Catt, mentions that since the last Congress held in Budapest, in 1913, victories for the cause of woman suffrage have been won in 16 countries—in Austria, Belgium, Bohemia, British East Africa, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Great Britain and Ireland, Holland, Hungary, Iceland, Jamaica, Poland,



Rhodesia, Russia and Sweden, women have been wholly or partially enfranchised, and in the United States nine more States have been added to those which had given full suffrage to women.

Other countries, such as France, Italy, Spain, and South Africa, will soon see their women enfranchised. Even in India the cause has prospered.

Lady Astor has taken her seat in the House of Commons. In connection with the League of Nations, an important advance was made, when the following Clause (III., Article VII.) was adopted:—"All positions under or in connection with the League, including the secretariat, shall be open equally to men and women."

A League of Nations' Union has been formed with the object of making the League "not merely a paper agreement but a living power," and women are urged to join and support this Union, whose office is at 22 Buckingham Gate, S.W.

**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE for 1919.**

Receipts.		Expenses.	
By	£ s. d.	Subscriptions to London N.U.S.E.C., I.W.S.A., N.C.W., L.G.A. ...	£ s. d.
To Balance from 1918	23 5 6	Patrols ...	2 10 0
" Subscriptions, 1919	26 3 6	National Council (Dublin Branch)	1 0 0
" Donation from N.C.W. for Election Work	5 0 0	Half Expenses, Mansion House Meeting ...	0 2 6
	<hr/>	Miss Harrison's Election Expenses	2 14 3
	54 9 0	Municipal Elections (Sub-Committee)	5 0 0
		Grant to Municipal Reform Committee	5 0 0
		Grant, Proportional Representation	2 2 0
		Secretarial Expenses	4 6 1
		Literature	0 18 1
" Legacy—MacNaughton Fund	101 12 5	"Common Cause"	0 11 10
		Tickets of Delegates	0 3 6
		Postage	6 13 0
		Printing	11 12 11
		Stationery	1 13 10
			<hr/>
			49 8 0
		Cash in hand	5 1 0
		Legacy	101 12 5
			<hr/>
			£156 1 5

February 2nd, 1920.

Examined and found correct.

ELLEN C. PERRY.











