

# THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

*Organ of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, 55, Berners Street, London, W.1.*

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PRICE TWOPENCE.

## THE HOLY FATHER'S TELEGRAM TO THE C.W.S.S.

President Catholic Women's Suffrage Society,  
London.

Holy Father thanks Homage, sends you  
his Blessing.

Cardinal Gasparri.

Rome, February 18th.

## AMERICA'S CATHOLIC WOMEN SUFFRAGISTS.

By ANNIE CHRISTITCH, B.A.

Prominent among the Catholic women of this country who have achieved great results for their own community and for humanity at large, is Miss Sara McPike, President and Foundress of St. Catherine's Welfare Association of America. As an active member of the American Woman Suffrage Society, Miss McPike realised when the struggle was at its height that the time was opportune for Catholic women to organise themselves into a body and as such take their place beside the various other societies demanding political rights for women. With the approval and encouragement of a few ecclesiastics and several prominent Catholic laymen and laywomen of New York, Miss McPike summoned her first Catholic suffrage meeting. It was not a large assembly but it was an assembly of enthusiasts willing to make great sacrifices for a cause which they believed would serve the interests of the Church as of all humanity, and to the glory of the Catholic Woman Suffrage Movement throughout the world let it be recorded that this assembly

was held within the precincts of a convent. The Superior of the Religious of Jesus and Mary in New York had long been in sympathy with the suffrage movement and it was wholeheartedly that she granted Miss McPike's request for the privilege of holding a meeting in one of the large reception rooms. Thus was inaugurated St. Catherine's Welfare Association, whose work and aims correspond closely to those of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society of England and whose past history of misunderstanding and opposition also bears a resemblance to that of the sister organisation in England. Like the latter, St. Catherine's Welfare Association has emerged triumphant after years of toil, and has become such an indispensable factor in the educational and social activities of the country that there can be no question of disbanding.

The enfranchisement of women has given rise to new tasks and problems which an organisation of this kind alone can undertake. Less fortunate than the C.W.S.S. in that it possesses no official organ, St. Catherine's

Welfare Association is nevertheless in the position of being able to distribute thousands of pieces of literature through its local branches, and also of frequently securing space for special articles as well as editorial support in the Catholic periodicals and newspapers which are so numerous and of such a high order in this country. Nor is there any difficulty in obtaining halls for public meetings and the services of first-class speakers, both Catholic and non-Catholic. These are only too glad to address so well-organised a body of women anxious to acquaint themselves with all present-day social problems. The Association has a definite legislative programme which is advocating among other reforms: equal pay for equal work; an eight-hour day for all working women; a living wage for women; and the strict enforcement of the child labour laws. Miss McPike who is herself a professional woman holding an important position in the business world, has made a close study of industrial conditions in the United States, and it was her knowledge, based on personal investigation, which largely assisted her in securing recruits to the Catholic Suffrage Movement in the dark days of opposition. In 1917, when the late and much beloved Cardinal Gibbons sought to discourage Catholic women from agitating for the vote, this valiant woman took her courage in both hands and headed a deputation which would lay before America's greatest Church dignitary the objects for which St. Catherine's Welfare Association had been founded.

With that courtesy and infinite sympathy which made Cardinal Gibbons one of the most popular men throughout the length and breadth of the United States, the aged prelate had notified his willingness to receive the suffragist group and give them a hearing.

His Eminence confessed his astonishment when he beheld the calm dignified women who had come to seek his blessing and plead their cause before him. Their devotion to the Church left no room for doubt, and it was then that he delivered himself of this generous sentence: "It is hard for one who has held these views for fifty years to change them. I recognise the fact that women have

advanced in the race. My mind is open to conviction and I will give the subject careful consideration." Although Cardinal Gibbons never became convinced of the claims of the suffragists, from that date he no longer actively opposed the movement and this in itself was a great gain to the work of the Association.

Miss McPike has worked in close co-operation with Mrs. Chapman Catt, who as President of the National Woman Suffrage Association (as well as of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance) has followed the career of St. Catherine's Welfare Association with the keenest interest and is full of praise and admiration for this devoted band of Catholic Women.

The Association is affiliated to the National Council of Catholic Women which has just been established in the United States and which held its first convention a few weeks ago. Whereas other Catholic women's organisations throughout the country will now have to take up the study of citizenship and civic duties in order to carry out effectively the programme of the National Council, St. Catherine's Welfare Association presents machinery equipped and ready to act on the advice of the National Catholic Welfare Council which co-ordinates all Catholic activity both ecclesiastical and lay for the common weal of the Church and of the people of America.—New York, Dec., 1921.

#### LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

The Liverpool Branch of the C.W.S.S. held its Annual Meeting on February 20th. After the presentation of the report of the Secretary and the Treasurer a Committee was elected for 1922. Miss Annie Holmes gave an address on the subject of "Trade Boards." She pointed out that the first Trade Board Act was devised to alleviate the lot of workers in certain industries, by men and women of vast experience in industrial matters, after every other means had failed. Their success when applied to the four trades in question has led to an extension of their jurisdiction to sixty other trades, covering some three million workers, eighty per cent. of whom are women. Unfortunately opponents of the scheme have seized the opportunity afforded by decontrol and the general demand for economy to press for their abolition. Already the number of inspectors necessary for the efficient working of the Boards has been diminished,

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## NOTES AND COMMENTS.

We print on the front page the text of the telegram, which to our great happiness we have received from the Holy Father conveying his blessing to the society, in reply to the C.W.S.S. telegram of homage.

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The January issue of the *Christian Democrat* published an article entitled "The New Paganism," in which the writer stated, quite definitely, that certain people in this country were advocating polygamy, and that these people had at their head "certain so-called Feminists, to their shame be it spoken." Our Hon. Press Secretary wrote to the Editor to ask for the names of the feminists who had thus brought shame on themselves. This produced a reply from the writer of the article to the effect that she had seen the statement made in an article in the *Evening News*, and had readily believed it because of certain other articles by a Miss Jane Burr in the *Daily News*. We confess that we cannot follow this line of argument. However, the writer was perfectly willing to make amends for her rash statement, but here the Editor stepped in, and our Press Secretary was informed that the Editor would prefer not to publish correspondence on the subject as it would not be of general interest to his readers. Are we then to suppose that a false charge against feminism is welcome news to the readers of the *Christian Democrat*, and a refutation of the charge is a matter of no interest? We are genuinely sorry that a responsible Catholic magazine should act in this discreditable fashion.

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A deputation representative of British and Indian women's Societies, including the C.W.S.S., was received by Lord Lytton at the India Office on February 22nd, to congratulate him on his appointment as Governor of Bengal, to thank him for his unflinching support of the suffrage movement in Great Britain and to ask him to further the enfranchisement of the women of Bengal and their much needed reforms.

The deputation was introduced by Lady Constance Lytton, Mrs. Fawcett spoke on behalf of the I.W.S. Alliance, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence for the W.I. League, Mrs. Marshall (late W.S.P.U.) for the Guild of Empire and three Indian women on behalf of the Indian societies.

Lord Lytton in reply thanked the deputation for the kind things said of him, unlike most deputations, he said, it was wholly one of pleasure to him, with no inconvenient demand in the background. It might be news for them to hear that he had got from the suffrage movement more than he had given, and having been a relative and friend of rebels, if not one himself, it would help him to understand the point of view of those who were in opposition to the Government.

With regard to the questions of the education and political representation of women in Bengal he required no conversion, but the granting of the franchise would not rest with him. One of the arguments used against women's suffrage here was, "What would the people of India think." He would go to India with no fear of that argument now. Whether his policy were approved by women in England, or not, he trusted they would know that he brought to bear a sympathetic understanding of the educational and political aspirations of the women of his province.

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and at the present moment a special commission is sitting to discuss the advisability of retaining or abolishing them.

Miss Holmes, speaking from the fullness of her personal experience, said that even if the Cave Commission should decide against the Trade Boards, she would urge members of the C.W.S.S. to fight for their retention.

Trade Boards had done splendid work in the past, in helping the weak, and especially the woman worker, and a great field of work still lay before them. The employer also benefitted under them, as all employers, who had had any fair experience of their *modus operandi*, had testified. Therefore, in the speaker's opinion, it would be a most regrettable, as well as unjustifiable step to abolish them.

Dr. Isabel Collier presided.

## THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.

AND

Editorial Office of "Catholic Citizen":

55, BERNERS STREET, LONDON, W., 1. Tel. Museum 4181.

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

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

MISS LEONORA DE ALBERTI. Hon. Editor, "Catholic Citizen."	MISS KATHLEEN FITZGERALD, B.A., Chairman. MISS M. HAVERS. MISS GABRIELLE JEFFERY, Hon. Treasurer. MISS VERA S. LAUGHTON, M.B.E. MRS. MEYNELL. THE HON. MRS. WALTER ROCH. MISS WHEATELY. MISS ISABEL WILLIS, Hon. Press Secretary.
MRS. ANDERSON. MISS BARRY, Hon. Sec. COUNCILLOR V. M. CRAWFORD. MISS FEDDEN, Hon. Treasurer, "Catholic Citizen."	

## THE RUSSIAN FAMINE.

### Dr. Nansen's Appeal to English People.

Dr. Nansen has made his last appeal to the English Nation to help the starving millions in Russia. The English are an humane people; if they can be brought to realise the horrors of the Russian famine, Dr. Nansen will not have appealed in vain. But just, as during the war, the human mind could not grasp the vastness of the horror which had overtaken Europe, so now it is almost impossible to grasp the vastness of the horror which has fallen upon the Russian people. There is no question here of approving or disapproving the form of Government which exists in Russia, the famine is the outcome of the long drought, but were it the outcome of misgovernment, there should still be no hesitation in going to the assistance of a stricken people. Our papers have been made hideous with ghastly accounts and haunting pictures of the famine and yet many have wondered whether it was not exaggerated. But there is no possibility of questioning Dr. Nansen's account. In the famine area the drought has cracked the earth till the once fertile fields bear the resemblance of broken pottery. In describing the terrible straits of the starving people, he warned his audience that if the peoples of Europe did not compel their governments to go to the rescue in time for the spring sowing of April, things would become still worse. "Has Europe no shame?" he cried. If we did not act from

pity now, he told us, we might be compelled to act from interest later, but when interest had conquered where pity had failed, we might find it was too late.

Dr. Nansen described his appeal as his last and desperate appeal to the English people. "If Great Britain will not set an example," he said, "I shall leave your country with something like despair in my heart." It is definitely a question for Government action, the extent of the catastrophe is such that no private enterprise, however generous, however zealous, can bring relief. But responsibility for moving governments lies upon the shoulders of the people. The Prime Minister sent a message to the meeting regretting that he could not be present owing to the Irish Treaty being under discussion in the House of Commons, but he assured Dr. Nansen that he was in full sympathy with his heroic efforts to relieve the people in the famine stricken area of Russia. It is, however, a case for deeds not words, the Governments of Europe must act, and they must act quickly. Meanwhile it is our business to bring pressure to bear on our own Government. As we go to press we hear that the International Women's League is organising a deputation of women's societies to wait upon the Prime Minister to press for immediate action. The C.W.S.S. will be represented on this deputation.

L. DE ALBERTI.

## CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1921.

As the years pass on the work of the C.W.S.S. so far from diminishing greatly increases, and during 1921 the influence of the society has been extended both at home and abroad. We have had a greater number of new members this year than in any year since before the war.

### MEETINGS.

At the close of 1920 the C.W.S.S. convened a meeting to call upon the Government to establish a "Truce of God in Ireland," and though organised at short notice, and within a few days of Christmas, a large and enthusiastic audience filled the Caxton Hall to overflowing. Many members of the Hierarchy and other distinguished ecclesiastics and laymen sent letters of support, which were read at the meeting and afterwards published in the "Catholic Citizen." The speaker was Councillor Mrs. Crawford, who had recently returned from Ireland, where she had been making personal investigations. The meeting had the support of many societies both Catholic and non-Catholic, and the following resolution was carried nem-con: "That this meeting of the C.W.S.S., at the near approach of Christmas, calls upon the Government to establish a Truce of God in Ireland without delay." At the close of the meeting Mr. Devlin, M.P., and various members of the audience spoke in support of the aims of the meeting.

The Annual Meeting was held on February 10th, at the Minerva Café, High Holborn. The chair was taken by Miss Kathleen Fitzgerald, B.A. Miss F. de G. Merrifield, who moved the adoption of the annual report, said that the great event of 1920 was the affiliation of the C.W.S.S. to the International Women's Suffrage Alliance at the Geneva Congress. Miss Eleanor Fitzgerald, in seconding, spoke of the need of a society such as the C.W.S.S., progressive and unafraid. The adoption of the financial statement was moved by Miss Bodley, and seconded by Mrs. Anderson in the absence of Miss Billing. Before calling on Councillor Mrs. V. M. Crawford to appeal for funds, the Chairman announced that Mrs. Crawford had most generously undertaken to guarantee the office rent for the year. Before the close of

the meeting, after Miss L. de Alberti had urged all members to assist in extending the society's work abroad, Miss Merrifield asked for permission to move an emergency resolution in support of Jury Service for women, in view of the agitation which was being organised against women jurors. The resolution, re-affirming the conviction of the C.W.S.S. "that women must shoulder their responsibility as citizens in this as in other matters, in the interests of the community and of justice," was seconded by Miss Jeffery, and carried unanimously. Before the resolution was put to the meeting Miss Bevan, who had served on the divorce case which had given rise to the agitation, addressed the meeting, and said that however unpleasant, it was a duty no responsible woman would dream of shirking. The resolution of the C.W.S.S. in support of women jurors was widely reported in the press.

On March 10th, under the auspices of the C.W.S.S., an interesting discussion was held at the Women's Institute, Victoria Street, on the Endowment of Motherhood in relation to the Christian Social Order. Miss Margaret Fletcher opened the discussion, and spoke of the way in which the various schemes put forward by the chief supporters of the endowment of maternity would in her opinion be a real danger to the Christian ideal of the family. Councillor Mrs. Crawford placed before the audience the advantages to be derived from State Endowment of the Family. The chair was taken by Miss Kathleen Fitzgerald, B.A. Both Mrs. Crawford and Miss Fletcher contributed articles on Family Endowment to the columns of the Catholic Citizen.

In April we were represented by Councillor Mrs. Crawford at the French Congress of the Action Sociale de la Femme held in Paris. Miss Kathleen Fitzgerald, B.A., was also to have attended, but was unfortunately prevented. A letter was read from Miss Fitzgerald expressing regret at being unable to be present, and dealing with the future work of the C.W.S.S. in the fight for equal franchise. Mrs. Crawford also spoke on the work remaining to be done by the C.W.S.S., and later read a paper on women in industry, giv-

ing the views of the C.W.S.S. on women's right to liberty in matters concerned with her own work. This paper was published both in the Catholic Citizen and Jus Suffragii. The C.W.S.S. was affiliated to the Action Sociale de la Femme early in 1921.

On May 11th we held a meeting of Women Jurors at the Women's Institute, when Mrs. More Nisbett, Women's Auxiliary Service gave an eloquent address, appealing to Catholic women not to shrink from Jury Service, but to take up the task in the spirit of true Christianity and humanity. The chair was taken by Miss Fennell. In June the C.W.S.S. held a Mock Election at Bedford College, by kind permission of the Council. Miss Elsie Morton, of the Proportional Representation Society, explained the system of P.R., after which seven candidates addressed the meeting. Miss Fedden, Unionist; Miss C. M. Gordon, M.A., Coalition Liberal; Miss M. Havers, Independent; Miss B. O'Kelly, Labour; Miss Moclair, Nationalist; Mrs. Warren Jones, Sinn Fein. The audience then voted under the P.R. system. The chair was taken by Miss Kathleen FitzGerald, B.A.,

In October the C.W.S.S. held a meeting at the Minerva Café, Holborn, to protest against the attempt then being made to destroy Trade Boards. Councillor Mrs. Crawford took the chair, and the chief speaker was Mrs. Burton, the official organiser for Holborn of the women's section of the National Union of General Workers. The following resolution moved by Mrs. Burton, and seconded by Miss A. L. Petty was unanimously adopted: "That this meeting of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society views with apprehension the growing opposition to Trade Boards among certain sections of the public, as it is convinced that Trade Boards afford the only means of protection for the lowest paid workers, and have already proved their value to the community. It calls upon the Minister of Labour to safeguard the position of those Boards already in existence, and to extend the Trade Boards Acts without further delay."

#### CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER SOCIETIES.

The C.W.S.S. has taken part during the year in the following meetings and conferences convened by other societies:—

The meeting to protest against false economy in education, convened by National Union of Women Teachers; the meeting organised by the Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries to protest against the dead set being made to prevent women being employed in any trade other than domestic service; the meeting in support of Women Police; the conference on the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, convened by the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, and on the Bishop of London's Criminal Law Amendment Bill, convened by the same society at the House of Lords. The conference on the Equal Franchise Bill, and the Guardianship of Infants Bill, convened by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship; the conference on Birth Control, convened by the Catholic Women's League; the conferences convened by Lady Astor to form the Consultative Committee of Women's Societies; the conference on Training in Citizenship, called by the Women's Local Government Society; on the consequences of an Army of Occupation, called by the Women's International League; the conference of Chelsea voters to meet Sir Samuel Hoare, M.P., called by the London Society for Women's service; and the conference on the Censorship of Plays, called by the London Council for the Promotion of Public Morality. The C.W.S.S. also took part in the Women's Meeting for Peace with Ireland, organised by the Peace with Ireland Council; and sent banners and a large contingent to take part in the procession and demonstration organised by the Women's Freedom League to press for peace with Ireland.

#### DEPUTATIONS, ETC.

The C.W.S.S. has taken part during the year in Deputations to the Ministry of Labour on Maintenance Allowance for dependants of the Unemployed; to the Chief Whips on the Guardianship of Infants Bill; on Women in the House of Lords; to the Candidates at the Westminster and Hornsey By-elections; and members have also attended meetings to question Parliamentary Candidates. The C.W.S.S. was represented at the monthly "At Homes," given by Lady Astor, to meet Members of Parliament, at the reception given by the League of the Church Militant to Mr. and Mrs. Hinchcliffe; at the dinner

given by the British Dominions Women Citizens' Union to delegates from South Africa, etc., etc.

Members of the C.W.S.S. helped with the Flag Days for the Restoration of Rheims Cathedral, and for the Good Shepherd Convent, Ashford.

Letters and resolutions have been sent by the C.W.S.S. to the Heads of Government Departments, and Catholic M.P's. in support of the Bishop of London's Criminal Law Amendment Bill; the Guardianship of Infants Bill; urging the appointment of a woman to the League of Nations Conference on Traffic in Women and Children; to Sir Eric Drummond urging that women representing medical, nursing and lay interests, should be appointed to the Temporary Standing Committee set up in connection with the International Health Commission of the League of Nations, etc., etc.

The C.W.S.S. is affiliated to the International Women's Suffrage Alliance; the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations; the Consultative Committee of Women's Organisations. Representatives of the Society serve on the Headquarters Committee of the International Women's Suffrage Alliance; British Dominions Overseas Committee; of the I.W.S.A.; the Equal Franchise Committee of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship and the Kensington Women Citizens' Association.

#### Hon. Press Secretary's Report

During the year 1921 we have been able, by means of letters and articles, to deal with many subjects of great interest to both Catholics and non-Catholics. In February, the *Tablet* and *Catholic Times* published articles from us on Women Jurors, and letters followed on the same very important subject in the *Tablet*, *Catholic Times* and *Universe*. We have also to thank the Editor of the *Catholic Times* for having published in the course of the year our articles on "Family Allowances," Trade Boards (two articles) and "Woman Suffrage."

In March and April the same three papers printed letters from us on the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, and the attitude of our Society towards it. "A Barrister" wrote to the *Tablet* in reply and a good deal of correspondence was the result.

We have been able to put forward the

Catholic teaching as to Divorce and Birth Control in several of the non-Catholic publications. *The Woman's Leader* having had an article from Mr. Cecil Chapman in favour of divorce, in which he made some inaccurate statements as to the views of the Early Fathers of the Church, we sent a letter to correct these statements. The Editor asked for an article instead of a letter, so one was sent accordingly and appeared in the April number of that paper.

Letters from our Society have also appeared in *The Daily Graphic*, in the course of a correspondence on "Surplus Women," and on "Women Jurors."

#### The Catholic Citizen.

Our Paper continues to be a valuable asset to the Society, keeping us in touch with old friends and members and bringing us new ones both at home and abroad. We have again to thank many professional writers for their generous help. Their expert knowledge has enabled us to deal with many social problems during the year, and to maintain the interest and standard of the Catholic Citizen. The International Notes supplied by Councillor Mrs. V. M. Crawford have been much appreciated.

#### Christmas Sale.

As in past years we had a stall at the Green, White and Gold Fair, organised by the Women's Freedom League at Caxton Hall. **St. Joan's Fair.**

In December the C.W.S.S. organised a two-days' Bazaar and Sale of Work at Central Hall, Westminster, which was known as St. Joan's Fair, and at which 17 other Catholic Societies took stalls. The Fair was opened by H.E. Cardinal Bourne, who, in his opening remarks, dwelt approvingly on the spirit of co-operation shown by the C.W.S.S. in thus bringing together the various Societies in one common undertaking. The Fair was very well attended—sales were good—and the general atmosphere was one of friendly enjoyment. The various bodies taking stalls were very content with the result to their funds, and several expressed their gratification with all the arrangements made, while the depleted exchequer of the C.W.S.S. was substantially benefited, and once again its members were drawn together by their strenuous and ungrudging efforts for the good of the Society.

**Treasurer's Note**

Owing to the generous way in which members came forward in support of St. Joan's Fair, it is a great satisfaction to record that our balance in hand at the 31st December, 1921, was £59 11s. 3d. as against £9 0s. 10d. at the end of 1920. It should also be noted that a far larger sum passed through our hands than in any previous year, a fact which goes to show the great growth in activity of the society.

We regret, however, that the "Catholic Citizen" is not yet self-supporting in spite of the increased price, and members should make special efforts to get new subscribers in order that it may become so.

**Oversea Visitors.**

During 1921 we have welcomed at the office the following visitors from overseas: Mrs. Dexter McCormick (U.S.A.), Hon. Treasurer of the International Women's Suffrage Alliance; Mrs. FitzSimons, Miss Johnstone Scott and Mrs. Thomson of South Africa; Miss A Meyer, Secretary of the League of Women Voters of St. Louis, U.S.A.; Misses Basilis, Catholic Students' Group, Bordeaux; and Madame de Bivort, Geneva.

We offer our cordial thanks to all who have come forward to help us during the year, particularly to Miss Gorry, Mr. Smith, Miss Petty, Mrs. Mills, Miss Ryan and Mrs. Scott Hill for help in the Office; to our gallant paper-sellers who have braved the battle and the breeze year after year, and to our enthusiastic new paper-seller Mrs. Scott Hill. Special thanks are also due to all our members and friends to whose work the success of St. Joan's Fair was due.

We have received with great regret the resignation of the Hon. Mrs. Walter Roch, who from pressure of work finds it no longer possible to serve on the Committee. We take this opportunity of thanking Mrs. Roch for all the help she has given to the C.W.S.S. She assures us that we can still count her an enthusiastic member.

We offer our congratulations to our members, Miss T. M. Browne, and Mrs. Fielden Hodgson on their marriage.

**Obituary.**

We have to record, with deep regret, the death of our members Mrs. Mullin; Miss E. Martyn; Mrs. Stanley Cary Caddell; Mrs. Witty.

**LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH.**

Hon. Secretary—Miss A. J. Musson,  
Fair View West, Rainhill.

The Annual Meeting was held on January 25th, 1921, at 6, Lord St., Liverpool. Miss O'Callaghan was re-elected Chairman, Dr. Isabel Collier Vice-Chairman, Mrs. L. Hughes Hon. Treas., Mrs. Parnell Hon. Paper Sec., and Miss Musson Hon. Sec. The Branch sustained a great loss when Mrs. A. J. Hughes and Miss D. M. Hughes left Liverpool, Mrs. Hughes had been a member of the Committee since 1913 and both had done much for the Branch. In November Miss O'Callaghan sent in her resignation owing to ill-health. She has been Hon. Sec. 1917-18 and Chairman since 1919.

The following meetings have been held during the year:—

(1) "The League of Nations," addressed by Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell.

(2) "Women Jurors," addressed by Inspector More Nisbett, of the Women's Auxiliary Service, Edinburgh.

A letter of congratulation was sent to His Grace the Archbishop of Liverpool on his appointment to this diocese, and in reply His Grace sent his thanks and blessing.

Mrs. Parnell and Miss Musson represented the C.W.S.S. at the Enthronement on June 4th, and the C.W.S.S. was represented on the Committee for the Reception given by Women's Societies on June 8th.

Letters of congratulation were sent to Mrs. Wintringham on her election to Parliament, and Mrs. Macdonald on her re-election to the Select Vestry Board.

Letters were sent during the year to Local M.P.'s, asking them to support the Equal Guardianship Maintenance and Custody of Infants Bill and The Equal Franchise Bill. The C.W.S.S. was represented on a Joint Committee at the Social Purity Conference held in Liverpool November 15th-17th, and Mrs. V. M. Crawford spoke as the representative of C.W.S.S.

The C.W.S.S. passed the following resolution, which was sent to Chairman of the Liverpool Watch Committee:—"That this meeting of the Committee of the Liverpool and District Branch of the C.W.S.S. calls upon the Watch Committee to carry out the recommendations of the recent Committee of

Inquiry on the Employment of Women on Police duties by employing women invested with the power of police constables as an integral part of the police force, and for this purpose to make the appointment from amongst those women whose training and experience during the last six years are considered by this society to be well fitted for the carrying out of the duties of police women." The C.W.S.S. still continues to be represented on the Liverpool Council of Women Citizens.

This body organised a memorial asking the Government to introduce a Bill granting votes to Women on the same terms as now allowed to men. The C.W.S.S. was among those representative Societies who signed:

"That this Council of Women Citizens protests against Clauses 3 and 7 in the Criminal Law Amendment Bill No. 2." Proposed by C.W.S.S..

The Council also passed resolutions in support of the Bishop of London's Criminal Law Amendment Bill, and the Guardianship, Maintenance and Custody of Infants Bill, and protested against deprivation of the Nationality of Married Women. The Council organised public Conferences on "Present Condition of Ireland," "Women Police," and in co-operation with the W.C.A. on the "Need for Women in Parliament."

Our best thanks are due to those members who have distributed handbills and sold papers, and sent Jumbles to be sold for Branch Funds. We are indebted to Mr. Charles Quinn for kindly auditing the accounts for us again this year and take this opportunity of thanking him. Our thanks are due to Mrs. Parnell for lending her room for Committee and to Miss Winifred Hughes for typing Balance Sheets and list of subscriptions.

*Obituary.*—We regret to record the death of Mrs. Deery, one of the founders of the Branch and for some time a member of Committee.—R.I.P.

**International Notes.**

We learn from *La Française* that on Feb. 28th, as we go to press, the French Senate will at length discuss the Woman Suffrage Bill adopted months ago by the Chamber of Deputies. Unhappily a temporary alliance to defeat the measure is anticipated between

Catholic Senators who still profess to believe that the right to vote is somehow opposed to Christian truth, and the rationalists who decline to confer the vote on women in their dread of the indirect power of the priesthood! Our cordial wishes are with our French suffrage friends that justice and common sense will nevertheless prevail.

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Some interesting details concerning women in the Swedish Parliament go to shew that they have been elected on their practical merits. Of the four women Deputies, one is a farmer, and one a trained nurse; the one and only woman Senator, Melle. Hesselgren, has been a factory inspector at Copenhagen for many years, has done much for the development of house-wifery schools, has attended many international congresses and has frequently visited England.

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*La Femme Belge* publishes an account of women in horticulture, pointing out the advantages of the career and asking for further training opportunities in the higher technical branches of the subject. Another article by Melle. Cappe deals exhaustively with girls' clubs and their social and educational possibilities and refers appreciatively to all that is being done in England on those lines.

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Countess Patrizi, President of the Italian Catholic Women's Union, writing in their *Bollettino*, makes clear what a close personal interest Benedict XV took in the affairs of the Union. She had frequent audiences with him at the Vatican in order to report to him the various activities of this widely spread organisation, and he more than once gave a donation to their funds.

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We much regret to learn of the discontinuance of the *Woman's Outlook*, the only definitely suffrage journal in South Africa. Its able editress, Miss Dorman, long a member of C.W.S.S. will be passing through London before this number reaches our readers, and we shall have the pleasure of welcoming her at our office on her way to Rome, where, we understand, she intends taking up her permanent residence. We shall confidently count on her for many services to the cause in the future.

V.M.C.

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Wed. 29th Mar. 8-15 p.m. Subject announced later. Mrs. Wint'ingham, M.P. Chairman.

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