

18,61

SPECIAL CONFERENCE NUMBER

"Do unto others as ye would that they should do unto you."

N.C.W. News

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE

National Council of Women of South Africa

Nasionale Vroueraad van Suid-Afrika

(Affiliated with the International Council of Women in 1913)

Editor: Mrs. A. B. Low, Gowanbrae, Banksia Rd., Rosebank, Cape.
Phone 6-1352.

Registered at the General Post Office as a Newspaper.

JULY, 1948.

REPORT

OF THE

18th BIENNIAL PERIOD

National Council of Women of South Africa

Nasionale Vroueraad van Suid-Afrika

CAPE TOWN, APRIL, 1946-1948

National Council of Women of South Africa Nasionale Vroueraad van Suid-Afrika

MOTTO OF THE I.C.W.

The Golden Rule :

"Do unto others as ye would that they should do unto you."

OBJECTS

- (a) To promote sympathy of thought and purpose among the women of South Africa.
- (b) To endeavour to secure effective co-operation of the different societies in social, philanthropic and patriotic work.
- (c) To prevent the waste of effort caused by overlapping.
- (d) To focus and distribute information of general importance and to make expert knowledge available for all women's organisations.

1946—1948

Hon. President:

Her Excellency Mrs. G. Brand van Zyl.

Hon. Life Vice-Presidents:

The Countess of Clarendon.

Mrs. E. A. McIlwraith, "Trellis," P.O. Constantia, Cape.

Mrs. Julia Solly, Sir Lowry's Pass, Cape.

Mrs. Scandrett, 73, Twickenham Avenue, Auckland Park, Johannesburg.

Board of Officers, 1948-1950.

National President: Mrs. W. A. D. Russell, 79, Leinster Road, Pietermaritzburg.

First Vice-President: Mrs. G. E. Terry, 79, Leinster Road, Pietermaritzburg.

Second Vice-President: Mrs. W. Reid, 79, Leinster Road, Pietermaritzburg.

Immediate Past President: Mrs. N. B. Spilhaus, P.O. Box 90, Stellenbosch, Cape.

Hon. Organising Secretary: Mrs. Lerwick, 79, Leinster Road, Pietermaritzburg.

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. van der Merwe, 79, Leinster Road, Pietermaritzburg.

Member of Parliamentary Committee: Mrs. E. Brookes, 79, Leinster Road, Pietermaritzburg.

Publicity Officer: Mrs. A. H. Allsopp, 79, Leinster Road, Pietermaritzburg.

CONTENTS

	Page
Report Impressions of 18th Biennial Conference	3
Kongres—Kaaopstad 1948	8
Resolutions passed at 18th Biennial Conference	10
Hon. Organising Secretary's Report	13
Report of Hon. Treasurer—Financial Statement	37
Report of Convener of Parliamentary Committee	44
Reports of I.S.C. Members	45
Report of Editor, "N.C.W. News"	69
Report of National Advisers	72
Financial Report, "N.C.W. News"	79

REPORT AND IMPRESSIONS of the 18th BIENNIAL CONFERENCE of the N.C.W.S.A. held in Cape Town

26th April to 1st May, 1948.

On this occasion the Council was greatly indebted to the University of Cape Town for the use of the Hiddingh Hall in which our meetings were held. Besides being spacious, there was a complete absence of traffic noises, and, almost as desirable, the highly prized, very adequate, parking space made available for our transport requirements.

The hall was beautified by an exhibition of pictures painted by South African women artists, and on the landing outside the Conference Hall, the National Botanical Society displayed a collection of African flora,

After our 1946 experience, it is hardly necessary to state that the Cape Town Branch Council once again excelled in its arrangements for the comfort of the delegates. As far as one could judge, nothing was left undone in this connection, and the delegates voiced in no uncertain terms their appreciation of the many amenities provided for them.

Preceding the conference, a religious service was held in the Gardens Presbyterian Church. This was conducted by the Rev. Dr. B. P. Hawkrige, who gave an inspiring address on "the sowing of the seed" and the need for "Perseverance" if we really desired to get things done. Disappointments and obstacles should only serve to put us on our mettle.

About 176 delegates from all over the Union, including representatives from 32 Nationally Organised Societies, registered, and all available space was taken up by visitors each day.

The conference was officially opened by His Worship the Mayor of Cape Town, Councillor H. E. Gearing, at 11.45 a.m. on 26th April. In his address the Mayor said that the N.C.W. had deservedly won the confidence and respect of all sections of the community, for it had helped to tackle many problems which had confronted the country from time to time. Its example had made women all over the Union aware of the big part they could play in the civic affairs of their towns. The co-operation and help of women in public life, particularly in local affairs, was needed more now than ever before, said Mr. Gearing. He thought that there should be more women in Parliament and in the Provincial Council.

Mrs. S. R. Sloman, President of the Cape Town Branch, welcomed the visitors, and Mrs. M. Overbeek, Vice-President N.C.W.S.A., speaking in Afrikaans, added her welcome and paid a special tribute to the energy of the National President which was largely responsible for the number of new Branches formed during the past four years.

In thanking the Mayor for opening the Conference, Mrs. N. B. Spilhaus said that he was a fitting person to open it because municipalities had always been open to women on the same terms as men. The National President-elect, Mrs. W. A. D. Russell, had been Mayor of Maritzburg for several years.

Mrs. Spilhaus read a message of good wishes which had been sent on behalf of the Conference to the King and Queen for their silver-wedding anniversary.

Telegrams and messages of greeting were received from well wishers throughout the Union, and of special interest was the greeting from Her Excellency Mrs. G. Brand van Zyl, our Honorary President, which, besides wishing the Conference every success congratulated the outgoing Board of Officers on the excellent work they had accomplished during their term of office, and wished the new Board much happiness and success. A cable

was also received from Mrs. Patrick Ness, Hon. Treasurer, I.C.W., and Mrs. G. Jenks, just arrived from England, conveyed the greetings of the N.C.W. of Great Britain.

Prior to getting down to the real business of the Conference the Mayor and City Councillors entertained over 200 delegates and friends to a delightful luncheon in the City Hall. When the Mayor coupled the name of Her Majesty the Queen with the King in proposing the Royal Toast, he said: "I did that to honour the silver wedding of Their Majesties, which is being celebrated in England to-day.

"It is an appropriate toast to make, too, at this luncheon for the National Council of Women, who at all times stress the value of a good home life, of which the Royal Family themselves are such an outstanding example."

On resuming work the President referred to the death of Lady Duncan, who had taken such a real interest in the N.C.W. and had been the moving spirit in founding the Tweespruit-Westminster Outpost.

It gave the National President great pleasure to welcome Mrs. Fuller, the first President of the N.C.W.S.A. who was with us as a delegate from Cape Town, and also Mrs. Scandrett and Mrs. McIlwraith, two of our three life Vice-Presidents.

Independent Nationality of Married Women: The National President stated that the British Bill on this subject had been published in February, and that a copy of an article in the British N.C.W.'s magazine, "Women in Council," had been sent to the Minister of the Interior, who had "read it with much interest." It had been stated in the Minister's former letters that our Government had accepted the principle of this Bill, and legislation would be introduced in due course.

Removal of Legal Disabilities of Women: She also reported that copies of the Report of this Commission had been presented to the Government recently, but the contents were not yet known. The Chairman of the Commission had, however, informed her that if the Government implemented its findings, it would go a long way towards removing these disabilities.

Honorary Organising Secretary's Report: Reporting on the 17th Biennial Conference your Editor said "It can safely be said that the report of the Honorary Organising Secretary was of a standard very seldom attained and never exceeded," but once again we were favoured with an Honorary Organising Secretary's Report which, prepared by Mrs. H. Tomlinson, was of the highest standard and one which might well be taken as an example by future Hon. Secretaries. No point was overlooked in this all-over review of the work of the past two years, and the enthusiasm with which its adoption was carried showed that the delegates appreciated the amount of work and time involved in placing all relevant facts before the Conference.

Honorary Treasurer's Report: As usual, there being so many Scots in the audience, this report created a great deal of discussion, and some knotty points gave members an opportunity of riding their own particular "Hobby Horses," but it was the overwhelming opinion of all present that, if we were to go on increasing in strength and influence, money must be found, and all agreed that a continuance of the Voluntary Contributions Fund was absolutely essential. Our Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Pryce Lewis, stated that if an amount of £300 per annum (as a minimum) could be raised by this means we could look forward to a time of great expansion without undue worry about our financial affairs.

The basis of our I.C.W. dues and the Triennial Delegates' Fund were matters which were widely discussed, and resolutions on these subjects appear elsewhere.

In thanking Mrs. Pryce Lewis for her report, high tribute was paid to her efficient work in connection with the vital subject of finance.

The National President also paid tribute to Advocate Hester Steyn (our new I.S.C. Laws) for her work in preparing "for love" her memo. on the Legal Disabilities of Women in South Africa in reply to the questionnaire received from U.N.E.S.C.O.

The subject of subscriptions to nationally organised societies was also very thoroughly gone into, and resulted in the passing of the resolution embodying the majority opinion.

The report of the Convener Parliamentary Committee (Miss E. Delbridge) created great interest. In proposing its adoption Miss Horvitch said Miss Delbridge and her able committee were to be congratulated on the tremendous amount of work they had done. A perusal of the Report would show that the whole field of action had practically been covered. No one unconnected with law or legislation could realise the difficult task.

The Reports of I.S.C. Members and National Advisers having been circulated prior to Conference were taken as read, but arising out of same some very good points were made, and a reading of these reports gives one a very fair conception of how our work is co-ordinated and how these reports combine to place at our disposal valuable information and data which should be of great service to us if we on our part make full use of this information and also of our I.S.C.s themselves, who are always anxious to assist us with advice and help when called upon to do so.

We had a great treat on the Wednesday afternoon when Mrs. V. C. Davie, guest speaker, addressed us on "Post War Social Welfare in England." This intensely interesting address was listened to with great attention, and we learnt that the problems of Great Britain were similar to our own, and we were glad to hear how Britain was tackling the problem of old and ageing people (this part of the address touched some of us very deeply on a very tender spot till we decided that we were not old, but only ageing). On the other hand, the work among children was something we could all enter into without such personal feelings, and we were glad to note that it is the accepted principle in Britain that almost anything is better than institutional life for those children who are unfortunate enough to require protection and help.

I think that the Resolution which brought forth the most eloquence was the emergency one on the use of the Cumulative Record Cards. It seemed as if everyone wanted to speak, and Mrs. W. F. Grant, our I.S.C. Education carried the meeting with her in her denunciation of the proposed use of these cards in their present form in schools.

Mrs. Spilhaus took the opportunity of wishing Mrs. J. K. Robertson, our I.S.C. Member for Peace and International Relations (and a constant contributor to the "N.C.W. News" on these subjects) "God speed, happy landings and a safe return to South Africa." Mrs. Robertson proposes staying overseas for several years, but we all hope she will not forget us, and that she may even find time to send us items of interest for the "News."

A special session was arranged at 5 p.m. on 28th April to ratify the I.C.W. resolutions, which had already been sent out to all Branches etc. Many delegates seemed to fade away at this point, but the business of the special session was duly carried through.

Margarine (pronounced as your fancy takes you) was also the subject of much talk and a resolution urging that this commodity be made available through ordinary trade channels was passed.

"N.C.W. News": As your Editor, I was naturally very pleased with the response to my request that, owing to the very great increase in the cost of printing, the price of our official organ be raised to 3½d. per copy or 3s. 6d. p.a. We have practically no other expense except for printing and distribution.

and as these costs are beyond our control, the rise in price was inevitable. Your Editor will continue to endeavour to give you your money's worth!

History of N.C.W.S.A.: This little booklet, compiled by Mrs. M. Treharne of Port Elizabeth, had just been published and was on sale at the Conference at 1s. 6d. per copy post free. Three thousand copies were printed, and the hope was expressed that EVERY member would obtain a copy as it contains valuable information about the growth of our organisation. All enquiries to be sent to your Editor, 14, Banksia Road, Rosebank, Cape. A big response is confidently anticipated.

Matters concerning I.C.W. were fully discussed from the chair, by Mrs. H. H. Fuller, I.S.C. Finance, Mrs. McIlwraith, Vice-President I.C.W. and Miss Kussel, a delegate to the Philadelphia Conference. It was felt that these discussions helped us all to a better understanding of the difficulties and problems facing the I.C.W. in these uncertain times, and it was agreed that copies of the letter just received by Mrs. Fuller from Mrs. Patrick Ness, Hon. Treasurer I.C.W. should be circulated to Branches for further consideration.

Elections: As a result of the ballot taken during Conference, Mrs. Wesemann of East London was elected I.S.C. member for Trades and Professions in place of Dr. Jackson Haight who has left for the United States of America and Mrs. N. B. Spilhaus was elected I.S.C. member for Migration in place of the Dowager Lady de Villiers who had resigned.

The end of the Conference approached and Mrs. Spilhaus paid a tribute to the members of the retiring Board of Officers, and said what a joy it had been to see so many members, especially younger ones, coming forward to speak in the Conference on subjects in which they were interested. She also stressed the great value of Miss Davies' services in the office, and thanked those all over the country who had given her hospitality and friendship on her visits to Branches.

Mrs. Low (First Vice-President) proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs. Spilhaus, on behalf of the delegates; for her invaluable work as National President during the last four years, and Mrs. Oosthuizen made a presentation to Mrs. Spilhaus, who thanked the Conference and said that being President had been a marvellous experience.

On behalf of the nationally organised societies Mrs. Alistoun (Methodist Women's Auxiliary) expressed their appreciation of the stimulus and inspiration they had received from attending the Conference.

Mrs. Oosthuizen also made a presentation to Mrs. Grieve (Secretary, Cape Town Branch) in recognition of her splendid work in organising the Conference, and Mrs. Grieve expressed her thanks.

The National President then moved the formal votes of thanks and Mrs. Mitchell Hunter, on behalf of visiting delegates, thanked the President, the Cape Town Branch and the hostesses.

Mrs. Spilhaus then read the names of the new Board of Officers to take office in Pietermaritzburg and welcomed to the platform the new President (Mrs. Russell) and Hon. Organising Secretary (Mrs. Lerwick), the only two members of the new Board present. She voiced the good wishes of the Conference to Mrs. Russell in her term of office.

Mrs. Russell expressed her regret that it had been impossible for any other members of the new Board of Officers to be present. They were:

First Vice-President, Mrs. Terry.

Second Vice-President, Mrs. W. Reid.

Treasurer, Mrs. van der Merwe.

Member of Parliamentary Committee, Mrs. E. H. Brookes.

Publicity Officer, Mrs. Allsopp.

She pledged the new Board to do its best to live up to the high standard set by the retiring Board in its service to the N.C.W.S.A., and formally declared the Eighteenth Biennial Conference to be closed.

It was announced that the Interim Executive would meet in Durban in 1949.

I cannot close this report without making mention of the kind gesture of members and friends of the Cape Town Branch Council who willingly gave up their season tickets for the Thursday night Orchestral Concert in order to enable visiting delegates to attend, as there are very few ordinary seats available. I think 47 tickets were handed in, and the Mayoress very graciously invited nine guests to listen from her Bay in the City Hall. Nor can I omit to report on the delightful outing to Stellenbosch. After the close of the Conference on Friday, all those desirous of visiting this beautiful university town left by car at about 12 noon. The weather was ideal and we reached the Town Hall, Stellenbosch, by devious but enchanting ways, where we were welcomed by the Mayor and Mayoress Professor and Mrs. Cruse. The Town Council and the local Branch had arranged a delightful luncheon for the visitors in their beautiful Town Hall. The tables were gay with autumn sprays, and the Mayor in his speech told us something about our sister organisations, the Vroue Sending Bond and the A.C.V.V. Mrs. Russell, our newly elected National President, made a very telling and suitable reply. After lunch, we were conducted over the Town Hall, many of us envying the Council its wonderful Stinkwood furniture, and outside feasting our eyes on a field of Gladioli of every colour in full bloom. These had been grown from bulbs presented to the town by the Netherlands Government as a token of gratitude to the people of Stellenbosch for the kindness shown to them in these difficult days. A tour of the town's Housing Schemes had been arranged for those interested.

In the meantime about 30 delegates accepted Mrs. Harold Jones' invitation to visit housing schemes inaugurated by the Cape Town City Council and the Divisional Council. Miss Rowland, one of the housing managers, was their guide, and a good and interesting time was had by all who availed themselves of this invitation.

As a final fling (quite unofficial but none the less enjoyable) Mr. and Mrs. K. Spilhaus invited us and other friends to tea at Kelvingrove later in the afternoon. There was some talk of speeding as we hurried back from Stellenbosch to accept this further evidence of our ex-President's kindly thought for us. In lovely surroundings we enjoyed "the cup that cheers," and at last had time to say some of the things that there never seemed to be time to say to each other during the Conference. It was certainly a delightful finish to a grand week.

What were one's impressions of the Conference? In the May issue of the "News" we published the impressions of a delegate on the floor of the House who was representing a Nationally Organised Society. My impressions come of course from the "seats of the Mighty." I was in the position of seeing everyone and watching the expressions on the faces of the delegates, and I should say everyone was interested and many were ever eager to express their views publicly. Others never lifted their voices—perhaps because they were shy, or unaccustomed to speaking in public, or felt that someone else had said just what they wanted to say and that they did not catch the chairman's eye in time—but all took copious notes. I made it my business to sense the feelings of the delegates, and from what I could learn, everyone appeared to be of the opinion that it was a very good conference. Perhaps those who have attended many conferences felt a bit tired of it all, but our newest recruits were loud in their praises of (1) the organisation (2) the wonderful arrangements made for their comfort by the Cape Town Branch and (3) of the great help attending conference would be to them in their future work for the Council, and would be of the greatest assistance in understanding all the various matters that arise during the year. They felt it

would enable them to return to their Branches filled with enthusiasm which they were determined to pass on to those who had not been fortunate enough to be present, and it made them feel that they were not an isolated unit in some small place, but part of a strong organisation. To me, and I think I can speak for the other members of the retiring Board of Officers, it was a happy conference. Perhaps we were a bit lightheaded at the thought of, shall I say, well-earned rest. I do not know. At any rate I had no feeling of "so much to do so little done" because I knew full well that we were handing on our task to those whose shoulders were well fitted to carry on the burden and responsibility, and in whom we had every confidence that our work—our aims, objects and ideals would be not only maintained but strengthened as the days and years passed on.

RUBY S. LOW, Editor.

KONGRES—KAAPSTAD 1948.

Om 9 uur vm. die 26ste April het ons Kongres begin met 'n kort diens, en na die bestuursvergadering het Sy Edelagbare die Burgemeester, mnr. H. E. Gearing, die Kongres toegesprek by die amptelike opening in die Hiddingh-saal, en die 168 afgevaardigdes en 28 verteenwoordigers van geaffilieerde verenigings en nasionaal georganiseerde liggame uit alle dele van die Unie, selfs uit Suidwes-Afrika, Niassaland, Suid-Rhodesië, asook uif Brittanje, welkom geheet. Hy het verklaar dat ter ere van sy geesdrif en lofwaardige strewe in die diens van die gemeenskap geniet die Vroueraad die bewondering en respek van almal.

Baie neerdrukkende probleme staar ons land en die wêreld tans in die gesig, maar die feit dat die vrou bereid is om hulle tegemoet te gaan en vasberade is om hulle te bowe te kom is baie bemoedigend en het reeds veel oorwinning behaal, nie alleen vir die vrou nie maar vir ons volk as 'n geheel. Meer en meer word besef dat die vrou haar plek in die openbare lewe moet inneem, veral in verband met plaaslike sake, wat die gewone burger van groter belang as internasionale sake ag, tog is hy van mening dat meer vroue in die Volksraad en in die Provinsiale Raad moet dien. Vroue moet saamwerk as vroue en moeders vir die gesondheid en opvoeding van hul kinders, maar dit is alleen een aspek van hul bydrae tot die welsyn van die mensheid; hulle beywer hulle vir die aanmoediging en bevordering van welwillendheid wat vandag 'n lewensbehoefte is onder alle nasies in 'n wêreld van wanorde en misverstand.

In haar openingsrede het die Presidente, mev. N. B. Spilhaus, daarop aangedring dat vroue altyd minstens een openbare verpligting, waar hulle tot nut vir die publiek kan wees, behou.

Die Presidente het ook meegedeel dat die verslag van die Kommissie i.s. die Regsgebroke van die getroude vrou 'n week gelede ingedien is, maar die inhoud is nog nie bekend nie.

Die verslag van die Organiserende Eresekretaresse, mev. Tomlinson, verdien spesiale melding; dit dek die tydperk Mei 1946—Maart 1948, en lewer getuienis van wat deur die Raad uitgevoer is—dit is 'n goeie getuienis van werksaamhede wat vrug gedra het, en van poginge. Elke poging het sy besondere waarde.

'n Buitengewone vergadering was bepaal om die besluite wat geneem is by die Philadelphia Konferensie te bekragtig.

Ons besprekings en besluite het hoofsaaklik oor opvoedkundige-, gesondheids-, rasse-, maatskaplike-, en morele probleme gehandel waarmee Suid-Afrika tans dringend te kampe het.

Die rolprent se voordele as middel tot onderwys vir die kind sowel as vir die volwassene is breedvoerig bespreek.

Betreffende die behoud van wêreldvrede en gesonde internasionale verhouding is besef dat daar op onderwysgebied veel gedaan kan word. Te Philadelphia is nadruk gelê op die waarde van persoonlike kontakte tussen die volke van verskillende lande, die behoefte aan onderwys vir elke individu, die noodsaaklikheid van opleiding in burgerskap.

'n Beroep is op elke lid gedoen ter bestryding van wêreldhongersnood. Slegs algehele internasionale samewerking kan die doeltreffende verspreiding van voedsel oor die wêreld bewerkstellig. Maar nogtans moet elke lid soveel voedsel moontlik tuis produseer. Die Raad is van mening dat 'n doeltreffende voedingskema baie daartoe kan bydra om maatskaplike en politieke onrus te vermy. Die huidige verhouding van wrywing tussen die volke is erg ongunstig vir wêreldvrede. Onderlinge vertroue is noodsaaklik. Kinders behoort in 'n groter gees van welwillendheid en goedertrou opgevoed te word. I.v.m. algemene volksgesondheid is besluit dat inenting teen witseerkeel voor die skoolgaande ouderdom verpligtend moet wees, en dat die Minister van Volksgesondheid versoek word om voldoende hospitaalruimte vir kraamgevallen te verseker, en ook dat voorsiening gemaak moet word vir inrigtings vir nie-blankes wat aan geestesgebreke ly.

Die Raad versoek ook dat die wet op vrouejuries gewysig moet word sodat vroue op juries kan dien op gelyke basis as mans. Nou nog moet die vrou aansoek doen om op 'n jurie te dien.

Ernstige verontrusting is uitgespreek oor die algemene woningskaarse, en veral die behuisingsprobleem van die Bantoe wat tans die stede binne-stroom om meer arbeidskragte vir die snelontwikkelende industrie te verskaf. Die Raad versoek die owerhede o.a. om in sulke gevalle spesiale toelae aan die munisipaliteite toe te staan en ook dat die Bantoe, onder behoorlike toesig, toegelaat word om hulle eie huise te bou.

Ook namate die fabriekwese uitbrei word die behoefte aan behuising vir die duisende jong dogters wat in die fabriek werk al hoe dringender. Die oprigting van hostels vir die meisies word aanbeveel.

Die middeltoets i.v.m. ouderdomspensioene is ten sterkste afgekeur; dit „help om die drang tot eie inisiatief en werklus te verstomp.” Dit is die plig van die Staat om te sorg dat sy kinders en ou mense gelukkig is. Tehuise vir sorgbehoewende oues-van-dae is een van die dringende behoeftes.

Mej. Delbridge, die saamroepster van die Parlementêre Komitee, het daarop gewys dat die bespreking op die Kongres toon dat die takke meer „wetgewing bewus” word en meer belangstel in die landsbestuur.

Mev. Davie, eggenote van die onderkanselier van die Universiteit van Kaapstad, het in haar rede oor na-oorlogse welsynswerk in Brittanje verklaar dat vrywillige maatskaplike werk altyd sal voortgaan parallel met die regeringdienste, en het verwys na die persoonlike kontakte wat op hierdie gebied so noodsaaklik is. Kinders in redelike swak huise is beter af dan kinders in enige inrigting waar die atmosfeer onpersoonlik is; die kind het niks van sy eie nie, en kry min aandag as persoon.

Gedurende die besprekings kon die kongresgangers oomblikke van ontspanning geniet deur die skilderye deur Suid-Afrikaanse kunstenaresses teen die mure van die saal, en die uitstalling van blomme van Kirstenbos te besigtig.

Lief en leed was een van die kenmerke van die Kongres; ons het afskeid geneem van ons aftredende Presidente, mev. N. B. Spilhaus, en ons nuwe Presidente, mev. E. E. M. Russell verwelkom. Aan mev. Spilhaus ons dank en waardering, en aan mev. Russell ons beste wense en getroue ondersteuning en samewerking.

H. KEYTER, Addisionele Perslid.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT EIGHTEENTH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE, 1948.

1. Resolutions affecting the Constitution passed by the Executive at Kimberley, 1947, and recommended to the 18th Biennial Conference, were amended and/or confirmed as follows:

- (a) That the definition of an Outpost on Page 2, Article 111, Membership 3, shall read:

Outposts

- (a) In a centre where two societies, plus 25 individual members, cannot be found to form the basis of a Branch Council, any group of at least 10 women may constitute an Outpost of the Council.
- (b) In a rural district where only one women's organisation, interested in social welfare, exists, this organisation, if it has a membership of at least 10, may constitute an Outpost of the Council.
- (b) Page 7, Section 15, shall read: "Branch Councils and Outposts, Members of the Board of Officers, I.S.C. Members and National Advisers, the Convener of the Parliamentary Committee, the Editor of the 'N.C.W. News' and the Additional Press Member shall have the right of nominating I.S.C. Members and National Advisers."
- (c) Section 20: Finance, Paragraph (b): Last sentence to read as follows: "No Branch Council will be required to pay any dues over and above the proportion of the affiliation fee to the Council, until after the expiration of the financial year of the N.C.W.S.A. in which it is formed."
- (d) Section 20: Finance (c) Last sentence to read as follows: "That for the next triennial period the money in the Triennial Delegates Fund be at the disposal of the National President or her proxy only."
- (e) 4. Section 22: Delegation to I.C.W. Conference (b) ii, line 4: It was agreed to delete the words "Branch Presidents and."

2. New Recommendations by the Board of Officers.

The following were confirmed:

- (a) Page 2, Article III, Membership. 2 (b) At least 25 individual members.
- (b) Page 3, Article V, Administration: (2) (c) Add the words "a First and a Second" (confirmed as "First and Second Vice President").
- (c) That Under Representation, Page 75, 8 (a), "one for the first 30 individual members . . ." should be altered to read "one for the first 25 individual members . . ."
- (d) Page 12 (k), that the words "any Representative of any other Government" be added after "Union Government," reading: (k) "No Branch Council or outpost may approach a Minister or any Department of the Union Government, or any Representative of any other Government. . ."

During discussion it was suggested that all Branches should forward copies of all letters from their Branch to the I.S.C. Member concerned, for her information.

3. Resolutions affecting the Standing Orders of the Council.

- (a) Page 5 Section 8 (c) III, add after "Branch Council" wherever it occurs "or Outpost."
- (b) Page 7 Section 15 (a) I. After "Outpost" insert the words "members of the Board of Officers."
- (c) Page 7 Section 15 (a) II. Delete "6" and insert "3".

- (d) Page 7, Section 15 (b). Add the words "and no one shall be elected to more than one International Standing Committee."
- (e) Page 9, Section 15 (k). At the beginning "Long leave shall mean a period of a minimum of three months and a maximum of twelve."
- (f) Page 11, Section 20, Finance (j). In the second line after the word "apply" insert the words "submitting relevant statement."
- (g) Page 13, Section 22 (c) ii. Delete this paragraph and insert: "The Members of the Executive shall register their votes for members to fill all places on the delegation not occupied by the National President or I.S.C. Members, from nominations made by Branch Councils and Outposts."
- (h) Page 14, Section 4. An error occurs here in the last line. Omit the "7 (d) and (e)" and insert "8 (c) iii" instead.
- (i) "The date which appears on the Cover of the Constitution as the date of the establishment of the Council is incorrect. The first Minute Book of the Council Records that the foundation meeting of the Council was held on the 17th December, 1909."
Members were asked to correct the covers of any copies of the Constitution in their possession to agree with the above.

4. Resolutions on Matters of Procedure.

- (a) That the title "National Adviser for Native Affairs" become "National Adviser for Africans' Affairs."
- (b) National Adviser for Less Privileged Europeans' Affairs. It was resolved to keep on the office, and that the title should remain unaltered.

5. Finance.

- (a) Peace Pledge Campaign: The Hon. Treasurer's suggestion that the balance of £21 in this fund should be given as the N.C.W.S.A.'s contribution to the United Nations' Appeal for Children was agreed to.
- (b) Conference Registration Fee: That the registration fee be increased from 2s. 6d. to 5s. to help with Conference expenses.
- (c) "That the N.C.W.S.A. accepts the principle of arranging inter-representation with other nationally organised bodies having similar interests without payment of a fee for such representation."
- (d) "That for the next biennial period capitation fees be raised to 1s. 3d. Of this amount 9d. shall be earmarked for our contribution to the I.C.W."

The biennial period was suggested because the next two years would be particularly critical ones for the I.C.W. financially, and this period would also give an opportunity of trying the new basis out before the next triennial period of the I.C.W. began.

- (e) Price of "N.C.W. News": An increase in the price of the "News" from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. was agreed. Increased printing costs had made this necessary.

6. Health.

- (a) "That diphtheria immunisation before school-going age should be made compulsory."
- (b) "That the appropriate authorities be approached to take immediate steps to provide adequate services for pre-natal, maternity and post-natal care, and accommodation where necessary for all races in both urban and rural areas, and to ensure that suitable machinery is set in motion to co-ordinate these services."

- (c) Homes for Inebriate Women. That the Government be urged to establish homes for inebriate women in the large towns of the Union.
- (d) "That the N.C.W.S.A. urge the establishment of adequate homes for non-European mentally defective cases."

7. Native Affairs.

- (a) "This Conference of the N.C.W.S.A., while welcoming the decision of the Government to undertake a large-scale programme for Native Housing, is concerned that there is still no assurance that the present deplorable shortage of Native housing will be overcome within a reasonable time.

It therefore urges the Government:

- (1) To urge upon the Municipalities the necessity to carry out their responsibilities for Native housing;
 - (2) To ensure that more priority shall be given to the supply of building materials for Native housing;
 - (3) To give every encouragement to those Natives who can undertake their own housing.
 - (4) To facilitate the training and employment of Native builders for Native housing."
- (b) "That, as the pre-school feeding scheme for Native children at present in operation in some areas and administered by the Native Affairs Department has shown such excellent results, the Department be asked to extend the scheme."
- (c) "The N.C.W.S.A. learns with pleasure that the Union Department of Native Affairs is making arrangements for bringing into effect the compulsory registration of births and deaths of Natives in all areas.

8. Education.

- (a) "That N.C.W.S.A. is opposed to the use of the cumulative record card in its present form, and urges that it be withdrawn."
- (b) Instruction on the Effects of Alcohol: At the request of Miss Adendorff (S.A. Temperance Alliance), the resolution passed at the 1946 Conference asking that scientific instruction in the schools on the effects of alcohol be extended was reaffirmed unanimously.

Soil Conservation.

- (c) "That Soil Conservation should be included in the Nature Study Scheme, beginning with the youngest children to the oldest, and also as a part of the Geography and/or Biology syllabus, in all schools."

9. Legislation.

- (a) "That the Women Jurors' Act of 1931 be so amended as to provide for women to serve on juries on the same terms as men; and that women serve together with men, as is the case in other countries."
- (b) "That the N.C.W.S.A. ask the Government to proceed quickly with the establishment of special Work Colonies for women of all races, separate, run on modern principles and in accord with the results of recent experiments overseas, so that those engaging in soliciting and shebeening may be committed to such an institution after the first or second offence."

10. Housing.

- "That all Branch Councils of the N.C.W.S.A. be instructed to urge their local authorities:

- (a) To include in all their housing schemes a rational amount of specially designed housing for the aged.
- (b) That every large municipal housing or flat scheme has a similar inclusion.

11. Food.

"That the Government be asked to remove restrictions on the manufacture and sale of margarine, in order that it may be available to anyone desiring to purchase it through ordinary trade channels."

12. International Relations.

"Realising that food shortages are a potent cause of human misery and of social and political unrest, and

"Recognising that the distribution of available foodstuffs can be made possible only by international co-operation,

"The N.C.W.S.A. learns with satisfaction that South Africa is already co-operating fully in the work of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, and begs the Union Government to support the recommendations of the new World Food Council, so that the latter's usefulness may increase.

"The N.C.W.S.A. further urges N.C.W. members to take an active part in their own centres in encouraging the formation of Soil Conservation Districts, for the production of more food without robbing the soil; to contribute to needy at home and abroad; and to raise food themselves so as to train their children in the understanding of agricultural problems."

13. International Refugee Organisation.

"The International Council of Women has learned with great satisfaction of the creation of the International Refugee Organisation by the U.N. and asks all its affiliated councils to urge their respective governments to sign and ratify the constitution of this body at the earliest opportunity.

"The I.C.W. strongly urges its National Councils to inform their desire that satisfactory living conditions and opportunities for rehabilitation should be assured to displaced persons while they are awaiting permanent resettlement.

"The I.C.W. further urges its affiliated councils to ask their governments to help to solve this world problem;

- (1) By absorbing a proportionate quota of non-repatriable displaced persons, and
- (2) By using their influence with the United Nations to issue to such displaced persons United Nations passports which would be accepted by all members of the United Nations as a fully accredited identification paper."

REPORT OF THE HONORARY ORGANISING SECRETARY.

This report covers the period from May 1, 1946 to March 31, 1948, and tries to show what has been accomplished by the National Council of Women of South Africa during that time.

It is a good record and, while jubilating over what has been done, the value of what has been attempted should not be overlooked. Each attempt has its worth.

In trying to give a bird's eye view, I am hampered by the fact that just 26 of our 46 Branches and Outposts sent in annual reports during the last year. On the roll of honour are Cape Town, Johannesburg, Durban, Pretoria, Port Elizabeth, Bloemfontein, East London, Queenstown, Engcobo, Graaff-Reinet, Greytown, Hantam, Knysna, Kroonstad, Ladismith

(Cape), Mossel Bay, Port Alfred, Potchefstroom, Rustenburg, Tweespruit-Westminster, Vereeniging, Oudtshoorn, George, Uitenhage, Krugersdorp and Pietersburg. Of these the following six failed to give membership figures—Durban, Greytown, Johannesburg, Hantam, Port Elizabeth and Tweespruit-Westminster; while Vereeniging combined in one figure members and the representatives of affiliated societies.

It is a great pity that a full picture of the work of the N.C.W.S. cannot be given for undoubtedly the 20 Branches who did not send in reports are doing good work, and this lack of information must render the report an incomplete record.

Hon. President: During 1946 Mrs. G. B. van Zyl, wife of H.E. the Governor-General of South Africa, graciously consented to become the Hon. President of the N.C.W.S.A.

Headquarters' Office Routine: The office, now at 406, Fletcher's Chambers, is officially open from 9 to 12.30, but Miss Davies, the only paid clerical assistant, works full time and is in the office until 5 p.m. weekdays and from 9 to 12.30 on Saturday.

The National President, Mrs. Spilhaus, attends the office every weekday and the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Tomlinson, comes three times a week.

The Board of Officers, consisting of Mrs. Spilhaus, National President, Mrs. Low, First Vice-President, Mrs. Overbeek, Second Vice-President, Miss Delbridge, Parliamentary Convener; Mrs. Pryce Lewis, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs. Shilling, Publicity Officer, and Mrs. Tomlinson, meets every fortnight. At this meeting the correspondence is read, business discussed and decisions taken. If a decision has to be made during the interim period, the National President takes a vote by telephone. The hundredth meeting of the Board of Officers is in sight and should be held before the transfer of headquarters to Pietermaritzburg.

The work of the office is varied and interesting, covering as it does the consideration of questions of the widest international significance as well as of the personal difficulty of one poor human being. It is gratifying to realise that the N.C.W.S.A. is looked upon as a source of help by both men and women, and is known and used as a powerful lever for good in South Africa. To illustrate this, I quote two appeals in one week, one from an association of manufacturers against the unfair distribution of sugar and the second from a Malay hawkler, mistakenly arrested for theft and stranded in Cape Town.

As far as is possible, the Branches and Outposts are called upon to assist in the work, and the 29 circulars (Circulars G17 to G45) issued since the last Biennial Conference of April, 1946, are evidence of the diversity of the questions they are asked to consider on subjects ranging from the Status of Women in the Defence of the Realm Act to the sale of surplus army clothing, the length of our skirts, etc., and their subject matter:

Circular No. G17, May, 1946.

1. Minutes of Conference, April, 1946.
2. Hon. President of Council, Mrs. van Zyl.
3. Nominations called for I.S.C. Member for Equal Moral Standard, National Adviser for Indian Affairs, and National Adviser on Soil Conservation.
4. Administration and Development Fund.
5. Interim Executive, Kimberley, 1947.
- 6 and 7. Work arising from Conference.
8. Director, Food Supply and Distribution, Dr. van Eck.
9. Book of Memory.
10. Butterless Week.
11. Penal Reform Commission.

Circular No. G18, July, 1946.

1. Minutes of Biennial Conference of April, 1946.
2. Nominations for I.S.C. Member for Equal Moral Standard.
3. Election of National Adviser for Indian Affairs.
4. Nomination for National Adviser on Soil Conservation.
5. Price of "N.C.W. News."
6. Platform and Leaflets.
7. Work of Conference—Queenstown to form National Association.
8. Correction to Minutes.

Circular No. G19, July, 1946.

1. Election of National Adviser on Soil Conservation.

Circular No. G20, September, 1946.

1. Result of election I.S.C. Member for Equal Moral Standard, Mrs. Mitchell Hunter.
2. Result of election: National Adviser on Soil Conservation, Mrs. Epstein.
3. Marketing Schemes.
4. Correspondence with Head Office of national organisations.
5. Terms of Reference of Commission on Legal Disabilities of Women.
6. Our Children's Day.

Circular No. G21, October, 1946.

1. Commission on Legal Disabilities of Women gazetted.
2. Corresponding members—Soil Conservation.

Circular No. G22, November, 1946.

1. Constitution.
2. Interim Executive Kimberley, 1947.
3. Resignation Hon. Organising Secretary, Mrs. Dunay.

Circular No. G23, December, 1946.

1. Christmas Recess.
2. Appointment of Mrs. Helen Tomlinson as Hon. Organising Secretary.

Circular No. G24, February, 1947.

1. Interim Executive Kimberley—change in date.

Circular No. G25, March, 1947.

1. New office address.
2. Resignation of National Adviser on Soil Conservation—Mrs. Epstein.
3. Interim Executive Kimberley, April, 1947.
4. Delegation to I.C.W. meeting Philadelphia, September, 1947.

Circular No. G26, April, 1947.

1. Resignation Mrs. Mitchell Hunter, I.S.C. Member for Equal Moral Standard.

Circular No. G27, April, 1947.

1. Resignation Mrs. Pearson, I.S.C. Member for Domestic Economy.

Circular No. G28, June, 1947.

1. Minutes of Interim Executive.
2. Suggestion from Alice Branch Council—food for British zone, Germany.

Circular No. G29, July, 1947.

1. National Film Co.
2. Questionnaire on Status of Women—Advocate Hester Steyn's replies.
3. Mrs. Low to act during absence of National President at I.C.W. Conference.

Circular No. G30, July, 1947.

1. Nomination for Acting I.S.C. Members for Cinema and Broadcasting: Mrs. Russell Perkins and Mrs. Murray.

Circular No. G31, July, 1947.

1. Result of election for Acting I.S.C. Members for Cinema and Broadcasting, Mrs. Russell Perkins and Mrs. Murray.
2. I.C.W. Conference, Philadelphia, September, 1947.

Circular No. G32, August, 1947.

1. Train Travelling.
2. Surplus Army Clothing.
3. Contributions to "Die Suiderstem."
4. Nursery Schools.
5. Sensationalism in the Press.

Circular No. G33, September, 1947.

1. I.C.W. Resolutions.
2. Compulsory Part Time Education I.S.C. Member for Education (Mrs. Grant) comments.
3. Women Jurors.
4. Fashion changes.
5. Correction—Hon. Treasurer, I.C.W.
6. Social Welfare Organisations Act.
7. I.C.W. elections—later results.

Circular No. G34, October, 1947.

1. I.C.W. Conference matters.
2. Biennial Conference N.C.W.S.A.
3. Lists of Corresponding Members.

Circular No. G35, October, 1947.

1. Distribution of I.C.W. resolutions.
2. Distribution of Amendment to Children's Act.

Circular No. G36, October, 1947.

1. I.C.W. Resolutions on Education.

Circular No. G37, November, 1947.

1. Nominations for Cinema I.S.C.
2. Platform.
3. Apology Mrs. Russell Perkins.
4. Price of "News"—increase.

Circular No. G38, November, 1947.

1. Powers of Control Boards.

Circular No. G39, December, 1947.

1. National President's Broadcast.
2. Nominations for I.S.C. Members for "Laws and Suffrage" and "Arts and Letters."
3. I.C.W. Conference Report.
4. Nurses' Trust Fund—appeal.

Circular No. G40, January, 1948.

1. Resolutions for Conference, 1948.

Circular No. G41, January, 1948.

1. Franchise Question: women same basis as men of their group.

Circular No. G42, January, 1948.

1. Late resolutions for Conference, 1948 (Stellenbosch).

Circular No. G43, January, 1948.

1. Late resolution for Conference, 1948 (Queenstown).

Circular No. G44, February, 1948.

1. Election results I.S.C. Member for Laws and Suffrage—Advocate Hester Steyn. I.S.C. Member for Art and Letters—Mrs. Rhodes Harrison.

Circular No. G45, February, 1948.

1. Resignation National Adviser for Less Privileged Europeans' Affairs, Mrs. Oglethorpe.

2. Conference Matters.

It is to be regretted that all Branches do not reply to these circulars. Several times it has been impossible to take action upon some question which is obviously acceptable to the majority, because a two-thirds majority vote has not been obtained, due solely to the fact that only about 18 of the 45 Branches reply, as in the case of Circular 32.

Office Furniture: Most of the office furniture is on loan from Mrs. Spilhaus, but a new typewriter, costing £46, and a steel filing cabinet, at £18 10s., have been purchased.

The Constitution was reprinted, copies being sent to Branch Councils and Outposts free of charge.

The Platform, as revised at the Interim Executive Meeting, was printed and distributed free of charge.

The Union Statutes Reprint, containing all Acts of Parliament and relative comments, and costing £30, was ordered. This to be paid for per copy at £2 10s.

Board of Officers: The membership of the present Board of Officers has been given. Since 1945 Advocate Mrs. M. Kay resigned the Treasurership, due to pressure of work, and Mrs. Pryce Lewis assumed office.

Mrs. Dunay became Publicity Officer, but her visit overseas lengthened and it was found necessary to appoint Mrs. Shilling who had been acting for her.

As a result of a change in the Constitution Miss Delbridge, as Convener of the Parliamentary Committee, joined the Board during May, 1946.

Parliamentary Committee: The membership, in accordance with the amended Constitution, is:

Representing the Board of Officers and Convener of the Committee:
Miss Delbridge.

I.S.C. Member for Laws.

Four members of the Cape Town Branch Council.

Two members from the Stellenbosch Branch Council.

The convener of this committee is one of the hardest worked officials, as her work entails the searching study of all Government Gazettes as well as a lynx-eye upon all Order Papers, etc. at the House of Assembly.

The Committee speeds up and intensifies the N.C.W.S.A.'s watch on the legislative programme, its omissions and commissions. It also supplies the "watch-dog," asked for by Port Elizabeth Branch Council, on the appointment of all Government Commissions and Committees. No better look-out could be kept, and Branches may rest assured that no specially appointed person could do better or as well.

Co-ordinating Provincial Committees: During 1946 an important step was made towards the better co-ordination of the work of the Branches, and towards the closer co-operation of Branches.

Arising from the formation of the Parliamentary Committee, under the revised Constitution, the Cape Town Branch Legislative Sectional Committee decided to assume the responsibility of obtaining copies of draft Provincial Ordinances of particular interest to the N.C.W.S.A., to send such copies to all Branches in the Province for study and comment, and from such information to plan the action to be taken. The Branches of the Cape Province would, by this means, speak with one voice, and give immense strength to any opinion.

Realising the value of such co-ordination, Head Office wrote to the Branch Councils in the other three provincial capitals, Bloemfontein, Pretoria and Pietermaritzburg, asking them to do the same work in their Provinces, to which they agreed.

Proof of the value of this step is demonstrated in the weight given to the protest on behalf of the teachers of the Cape Province in their struggle for fairer pay conditions—the "notch-for-notch" protest, organised by the Cape Town Branch, being most spectacular with the dramatic arrival of telegram after telegram from Branches and the heartening effect of this upon the teachers.

Further examples are: Bloemfontein's lead in stimulating the protest against the increased contribution from women teachers to the Pension Fund.

The strength added by the inclusion of members of the Springs and Rustenburg Branches in the deputation to the Administrator, which protested against the element of compulsion in the Shop Hours Ordinance.

The general and concerted action which followed the handing over to the Cape Town Legislative Committee of Grahamstown's resolution on the de-rating of Government property.

The combination in one deputation to the Administrator of members of the Pretoria, Johannesburg and Reef Branches on the question of the draft Hospitalisation Ordinance.

Expansion: During the last two years, the following 13 new Branch Councils and Outposts have been formed:—

Alice Branch Council, Bethlehem Branch Council, Burghersdorp Outpost, George Branch Council, Hantam Outpost, Knysna Branch Council, Ladismith (Cape) Outpost, Louisvale Outpost, Tweespruit-Westminster Outpost, Upington Branch Council, Vereeniging Branch Council, White River District Outpost, Whittlesea Outpost.

In accordance with the new definition of a Branch Council, the following grew from Outpost to Branch Council status:—

Engcobo, Greytown, Klipriver and Pietersburg.

Branches are still showing signs of war weariness, however, and Mafeking closed down during 1947, before the resolution taken at the Interim Executive Meeting, Kimberley "That no Branch should close without a member of the Board of Officers being present at the meeting making such a decision."

Klipriver (Ladysmith, Natal) has gone into recess, but we hope the proximity of the new Headquarters at Pietermaritzburg will bring about a revival of life to this Branch.

Randfontein and Brakpan, during March this year, decided to go into recess for one year.

The Board of Officers have expressed their appreciation of the help given by established Branches in this work of expansion, particularly to Mrs. van Soelen, Oudtshoorn, who helped to form Ladismith (Cape), to Mrs. Handley in connection with Alice, to Mrs. Eybers with Louisvale, and to Mrs. Fuller of East London, whose presence at Burghersdorp's first meeting was a great asset.

During May, 1946, Mrs. Spilhaus toured the Eastern Province, and during November, 1947, she visited the Transvaal and the Eastern Province, visits resulting in new Branches and great interest in the N.C.W.S.A.

STATISTICS OF MEMBERSHIP.

Branches.	Individual Members.		Affiliated Societies.	
	1946	1948	1946	1948
ALICE	—	22	—	5
BENONI	47	62	2	7
BLOEMFONTEIN	69	79	25	25
BRAKPAN	*	21	*	7
CAPE TOWN	185	235	54	59
DURBAN	209	237	41	48
EAST LONDON	73	102	26	31
ENGCOBO	31	31	—	2
GEORGE	—	30	—	6
GRAAFF-REINET	56	53	7	7
GRAHAM'S TOWN	63	74	18	18
GREYTOWN	38	46	—	2
HANTAM (Outpost)	—	12	—	—
JOHANNESBURG	320	263	99	98
KIMBERLEY	50	65	11	13
KINGWILLIAMSTOWN	62	43	10	10
KLIPRIVER	38	—	2	—
KNYSNA	—	44	—	5
KROONSTAD	42	40	10	9
KRUGERSDORP	28	32	12	6
LADISMITH (Cape) (Outpost)	—	24	—	—
LOUISVALE (Outpost)	—	20	—	—
MAFEKING	25	†	6	†
MOSSEL BAY	50	38	7	9
OUDTSHOORN	42	36	10	10
PIETERMARITZBURG	142	164	31	32
PIETERSBURG	40	36	5	4
PORT ALFRED	—	53	—	7
PORT ELIZABETH	106	125	31	35
POTCHEFSTROOM	40	30	10	10
PRETORIA	105	94	42	43
QUEENSTOWN	48	57	18	16
RANDFONTEIN	26	15	10	7
RUSTENBURG	36	61	7	9
SPRINGS	63	67	15	14
STELLENBOSCH	60	49	6	5
TWEESPRUIT-WESTMINSTER (Outpost)	—	33	—	—
UITENHAGE	83	82	15	15
UMTATA	—	28	—	2
UPINGTON	6	37	—	5
VEREENIGING	—	58	—	12
WHITTLESEA	—	15	—	—
WHITE RIVER DISTRICT	—	48	—	—

† No report.

† Closed.

INTERIM APPOINTMENTS

Moral Welfare—I.S.C. Member: Mrs. Mitchell Hunter, appointed September, 1946, resigned May, 1947, when Sister May Davies was elected. (Note: This title takes the place of "Equal Moral Standard.")

Cinema—I.S.C. Member: Due to Mrs. Thornton Archer's elevation to I.C.W. Convener for Cinema at the Philadelphia Conference, September, 1947, an election was held, resulting in the appointment of Mrs. Eybers, Johannesburg.

Broadcasting—I.S.C. Member: Mrs. Eybers acted during Mrs. Thornton Archer's absence overseas.

Home Economics—I.S.C. Member: (Old title Domestic Economy.) Owing to overwork, Miss Pearson resigned and Mrs. van der Westhuizen, Pretoria, was elected in May, 1947.

Arts and Letters—I.S.C. Member: The I.C.W. at Conference, 1947, decided to amalgamate under one heading the two committees for Fine and Applied Arts and that of Letters, necessitating an election, which resulted in Mrs. Rhodes Harrison, Bloemfontein, becoming Member of the composite committee in February, 1948.

Laws—I.S.C. Member: Advocate Mrs. M. Kay resigned and Advocate Hester Steyn was elected during February, 1948.

Soil Conservation—National Adviser: Mrs. Epstein was appointed in September, 1946, and on her resignation during May, 1947, Mrs. M. Parkes, Kendrew, C.P., was elected.

Indian Affairs—National Adviser: During August, 1946, Mrs. M. Palmer, Durban, was appointed.

RESIGNATIONS

Immigration—I.S.C. Member: The Dowager Lady de Villiers resigned, February, 1948.

Trades and Professions—I.S.C. Member: Dr. Jackson Haight resigned, February, 1948.

(An election for these two posts will be held during Conference, April, 1948.)

Less Privileged Europeans' Affairs—National Adviser: Mrs. Oglethorpe resigned February, 1948. She suggests the title be changed to National Adviser on Social Welfare. A second suggestion is that the office be abolished. The matter will be discussed at Conference.

Obituary: We record with regret the death of Mrs. Ada Arbuthnot, who was National President for the two Biennial Periods 1924-26 and again 1934-36; who wrote the History of the N.C.W.S.A. up to 1926, and who gave so generously of herself in every way to the work of the N.C.W.S.A.

Also of Dr. Winifred Montgomery, Pietersburg, the first woman doctor in the Northern Transvaal, who took a keen interest in all N.C.W.S.A. affairs.

**MEMBERS OF NATIONAL COUNCILS, COMMISSIONS AND BOARDS
(Additions)**

National Social and Economic Planning Council: Mrs. N. B. Spilhaus, Cape Town.

Fisheries Advisory Board: Mrs. R. Low, Cape Town.

United Municipal Executive: Mrs. Russell, Pietermaritzburg.

Wheat Control Board: Mrs. Nel, Potchefstroom.

National Housing and Planning Commission: Mrs. D. Reitz until August, 1947.

(The Minister of Health, February, 1948, gives his assurance that one of the clauses of the amending Bill ensures that one member shall be a woman.)

National Housing Advisory Council: Mrs. Harold Jones, Cape Town.

S.A. Council for Scientific and Industrial Research; Research Committee on Minimum Standards of Housing Accommodation: Mrs. Harold Jones, alternate, Councillor Holland, Port Elizabeth. Sub-Committee Members: Mrs. M. Sherlock, Pretoria; and Mrs. Preller and Mrs. Cutten, Johannesburg.

Social Welfare Organisations' Board: Mrs. Barratt, Grahamstown.

Consumers' Advisory Committee: Mrs. Asher, Durban; and Mrs. Pritchard, Bloemfontein.

Broadcasting Commission: Advocate Gladys Steyn, Bloemfontein.

Legal Disabilities of Women Commission: Mrs. Bertha Solomon, M.P.

LOCAL APPOINTMENTS ON TOWN COUNCILS, SCHOOL BOARDS, ETC.

I am giving no set list of these, much as they are to the credit of the N.C.W.S.A. and much as they demonstrate the value of the service women are increasingly rendering, because with the lack of 20 reports such a list, long though it would be, would not reflect truly the magnitude of the work done by Branch members. I have tried, when detailing specific work, to mention the appointments of the members of those Branches who sent in reports.

REPRESENTATION AT MEETINGS OF OTHER NATIONALLY ORGANISED BODIES

S.A. National Council for Mental Health: Miss Ketchen, East London, October, 1947.

S.A. National Council for the Deaf: Mrs. Asher, Durban, November, 1947.

National Council for the Care of Cripples in S.A.: Miss Powell, Port Elizabeth, June, 1947.

Family and Population Congress, October, 1947 (Overseas)—invitation received too late.

Nursery Schools Association of S.A.: Mrs. Eybers, Johannesburg, September, 1947.

Women's World Fellowship, Paris, September, 1947—no one able to attend.

U.N.E.S.C.O., Paris, July, 1947—Mrs. Thornton Archer, one of the three educationists invited from South Africa.

Road Safety Conference: Mrs. Pyper, Pretoria, November, 1947.

Penal Reform League: Miss Horvitch, Johannesburg, November, 1947.

Race Relations: Mrs. Sloman, Cape Town, February, 1948.

I.C.W. CONFERENCE, PHILADELPHIA, SEPTEMBER, 1947: The South African delegation, headed by Mrs. Spilhaus, National President, consisted of Mrs. Thornton Archer, I.S.C. Member for Cinema and I.S.C. Member for Broadcasting, Miss Mackenzie, I.S.C. Member for Child Welfare, Dr. McPherson, representing Dr. Rolfe, I.S.C. Member for Health, Miss Horvitch, representing Advocate M. Kay, I.S.C. Member for Laws, Miss S. Russell, representing Mrs. J. K. Robertson, I.S.C. Member for Peace and International Relations and Mrs. Steytler, representing Mrs. van der Westhuizen, I.S.C. Member for Home Economics.

Mrs. Spilhaus gave various Branches a summary of their experiences, dwelling upon the fine character of the women who met to try and work together for universal good.

Honour was done to the N.C.W.S.A. by the appointment of:

Mrs. McIlwraith, Vice-President, I.C.W.

Mrs. Thornton Archer, Convener for Cinema, I.C.W.

Mrs. Chapman Handley, Convener for Home Economics, I.C.W. (re-election).

Mrs. Grant, Vice-Convener for Education, I.C.W.

Mrs. J. K. Robertson, Vice-Convener for Peace and International Relations, I.C.W.

INTERIM EXECUTIVE MEETING, 1947

From the 12th to the 17th May, the Board of Officers, I.S.C. Members, National Advisers and representatives of 34 Branches met in Kimberley.

So enjoyable was Kimberley's pleasant hospitality, that members felt they had had a happy holiday, in addition to a useful and instructive meeting.

The agenda of 30 items and 29 resolutions, plus three emergency resolutions, covered a wide field, dealing with almost every aspect of our life.

The discussions were interesting and, almost without exception, gave evidence of intelligent study and full grasp of problems. This study of South Africa's problems is the intangible, but most valuable work of the N.C.W.S.A. Members who are the mothers (and grandmothers) of citizens and future citizens, must have a great and increasing influence upon our country, for children begin where their parents leave off, and it is already apparent that few young women, to-day, consider that their lives are complete without some civic, welfare or specialised work, as well as the care of home and children.

It is laid down that the Resolutions and details of action taken should be given in this Report. Here they are:—

1. **Alignment of Financial Years:** Proposed by Mrs. Pryce Lewis, Hon. Treasurer:

"That the financial year of all Branches should coincide with the financial year of the Council, i.e. 1st April to 31st March."

An amending resolution was carried, reading:

"That the financial year of all Branches shall coincide and that the financial year of all Branches shall be the calendar year. This to take immediate effect."

2. **Political Rights:** Proposed by Miss Delbridge, Parliamentary Convener:

"The N.C.W.S.A., having noted the Resolution passed by the General Assembly of U.N.O. 'that all member countries should be urged to grant the same political rights to their women on the same basis as to their men,' asks the Union Government to grant Non-European women the same franchise rights as Non-European men."

A proposal that this be deferred to the 1948 Conference was carried.

3. **Definition of Long Leave**—Mrs. Overbeek:

"That in Section 15 of Standing Orders for the Council (page 9, k) 'long leave' be defined as a period not exceeding 12 months. Any officer expecting to be away longer than 12 months shall resign."

Passed with the addition of the words "except under exceptional circumstances approved by the Board of Officers" to be inserted after the words "Twelve months."

4. **Extraordinary Expenses of I.S.C. Members**—from the Chair:

"Should an I.S.C. Member be put to extraordinary expenses, such as occurs when she has to collect and submit evidence to a Government Commission, she may forward a detailed account to the Board of Officers for consideration." PASSED.

5. **Bloemfontein Branch Council:**

"That when anyone travels on official N.C.W. business the price in money of a first-class rail ticket be issued to her except when excursions are available, in which case the price of a first-class excursion ticket, or her actual transport expenses, whichever is the lesser amount, be supplied." PASSED.

6. Cape Town Branch Council:

"The Cape Town Branch Council proposes that when the N.C.W. is called upon to make public pronouncements—e.g. when giving evidence before Commissions, etc.—Branch Councils must not express views in contradiction to the principles covered by the N.C.W. Platform." Accepted with addition to last sentence proposed by Mrs. Low:

"Branches shall submit if possible memoranda to Head Office before giving evidence."

7. Pretoria Branch Council:

"Any unwritten laws which form part of the procedure in N.C.W. affairs shall be voted on by the Branches, and, if approved, shall be incorporated in the Constitution of the N.C.W.S.A., and shall then only be binding on the Branches."

WITHDRAWN. Suggested and accepted that

"The rules of procedure be brought up to date and circulated once more among Presidents."

This has been done.

8. Pietermaritzburg Branch Council:

"That some form of co-ordination is required in each Province, to ensure the united effort and co-operation of N.C.W. Branches in Provincial matters." PASSED.

9. Johannesburg Branch Council:

"The Johannesburg Branch of the N.C.W. resolves that the period for which Head Office should remain in one centre should be three years instead of four years and that there should be an Annual Conference in place of the Biennial Conference and Interim Executive." DEFEATED.

10. Mrs. Low:

"That no Branch may decide to close unless a member of the Board of Officers is present at the meeting held to discuss this question."

PASSED.

11. Potchefstroom Branch Council:

"That N.C.W.S.A. views with alarm the frequency with which forest fires occur, particularly in the beauty spots of the Cape, and requests the Government to extend its forestry services by the appointment of a paid official to work out the measures necessary for fire fighting, and by including spotter planes, as used with great success in the U.S.A. to protect the indigenous forests, plantations and flora in general: and so help to prevent soil erosion."

An amendment was carried:

"The N.C.W.S.A. views with alarm the frequency with which veld and forest fires occur, and requests the Government to extend its forestry services by the appointment of a paid official to work out the measures necessary for fire fighting, and by including spotter planes, as used with great success in the U.S.A. to protect the indigenous forests, plantations and the flora in general: and so help to prevent soil erosion."

Arising out of the discussion, the following Resolution was passed

"The attention of this Council has been drawn to the urgent need for education in the dangers of veld and forest fires. The Council understands that the Veld Trust campaign will take place in August, and trusts that they will see their way to emphasise this matter particularly in their campaign in the schools. The Executive desires to take this opportunity of expressing their appreciation of the valuable work of the National Veld Trust and to assure them of their support in their educational campaign."

Collection Number: AD1715

SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS (SAIRR), 1892-1974

PUBLISHER:

Collection Funder:- Atlantic Philanthropies Foundation

Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive

Location:- Johannesburg

©2013

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document forms part of the archive of the South African Institute of Race Relations (SAIRR), held at the Historical Papers Research Archive at The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.