

"That the Constitution drafted by the Provisional Committee be adopted," and spoke as follows: Before putting my resolution to the meeting, perhaps it may not be out of place to say a few words as to the usefulness, from a business woman's point of view, of such a body as the National Council of Women. I have the honor to represent here to-day a small, though I am glad to say ever-growing, community of women engaged in clerical work in this city, the typists. These are women who in earning their living ask for a more enlarged field for their activity than the time-honored employments of teaching and nursing and such like. I want to point out how the sympathy of a combination of women helped the profession to which I belong when entering upon a hitherto unknown business career in 1887, and no doubt the benefit was felt by others also. Clerical work as an occupation for women had been very little tried, and I can assure you it was with fear and trembling that I approached the business men of Sydney, asking them to encourage this new venture, and here I should like to bear testimony to the unvarying courtesy and kindness always received by us at their hands, from Government officers, and members of medical, legal, theatrical and mercantile professions generally. The Exhibition of Women's Industries was being initiated at that time by some of the leading women of Sydney, and much interest was taken in the matter, by Lady Carrington as president, by Lady Windyler, the mother of our valued hon. secretary, by the heads of the different departments and by my ever-valued friend, Lady Fairfax, then of Admiralty House; in whose department—the mechanical—typewriting was included. A few of the practical effects of the Exhibition were these. The first classes for typewriting in Sydney were started in connection with Lady Fairfax's department, the first woman's copying office was opened then, and the first women who went into offices in Sydney to any known extent were I am proud to say the pupils of that Exhibition, and the interest taken in the profession helped to raise it to a high standard, so that any well educated woman may be proud to enter its ranks. We are still climbing the hill, and have old world prejudices to overcome and we have to show our adaptability for the business, and what sort of stuff we are made of, no one can help us in that but ourselves, but I acknowledge with gratitude that the combination in connection with the Exhibition of Women's Industries helped to launch our profession in a way that would have been difficult for any pioneer to do unaided, no matter what her previous experience may have been. Then I see before our National Council a much wider field than aiding women who are starting or who have started in new professions, helpful though that may be. Are there not crying evils in this air city to be remedied amongst our sister workers? I refer to the Factory Girls, the Tailoresses, the shop assistants and so on. If we can help to bring their grievances before the public—and surely we can do so—in order that the law may step in and make their condition better, our Council will not have been formed in vain. We all know individually how sweet and helpful it is to have sympathy from our friends in any work in which we are engaged, well, as the friend is to the individual, so will this Council be to the body represented by its delegates, and we may look forward to the time when the little seed sown to-day under such auspicious circumstances, will later on grow into the beautiful tree spreading its protecting branches over those who need shelter, and bringing beauty and comfort to all those who have to tread on life's rough road.

The resolution was seconded by Miss MacCallum, and supported by Mrs. Wolstenholme.

After discussion it was resolved that the adoption or the amendment of the Constitution should be left to the incoming members of the National Council of Women.

Madame Rougier moved, and Mrs. C. J. Martin seconded the motion,—"That Lady Hampden be elected president; Lady Darley and Lady Kenwick vice-presidents; Miss M. Windyler, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Robjohns, recording secretary."

The proceedings terminated after a vote of thanks had been accorded to Lady Hampden for presiding.

ALGOMA LOCAL COUNCIL.

More than forty representatives of the West Algoma Council of Women met in the drawing-room of the Kamistiquia Hotel, Fort Wilham, on Friday afternoon, Oct. 9th. On this occasion they were honored with a visit from Her Excellency, Countess of Aberdeen, who had telegraphed to Mrs. Gibbs on the previous day her desire to meet the Executive Committee, and that she would remain for a day at this point.

After a short address, followed by council prayer, Mrs. Gibbs requested one of the vice-presidents to welcome Her Excellency to the meeting. This was replied to most kindly. Her Excellency expressing pleasure at being with us, and also the hope that we would forgive the National Council for electing Mrs. Gibbs to fill the office of vice-president, promising in its behalf that they would only borrow her when good judgment and tact were necessary.

Her Excellency requested the president of each affiliated society present to give an idea of their work during the year, and asked interesting questions of some, as either difficulties or discouragements were alluded to by the twelve officers who acceded to her request.

A report of the Cooking Classes held last winter was then asked for, and Her Excellency was delighted to hear of Miss Livingston's success.

Other questions discussed informally were: The Work of the Aberdeen Association, Child Immigration, The Home Journal, Half-holidays for Working People, Special Protection for Women and Children, Illegal Sale of Impure Literature, Home Reading Circles and Health Talks.

Her Excellency added that the question, "What is the use of the Women's Council?" is not so often asked as formerly, explaining that at first the aim was chiefly to take up any public question affecting the sick, the weak or the erring, and as leading members of different societies are brought together to hear and know more of each other's work, sympathies are drawn out, and therefore it must help individual thought; as our lives run together in new channels, along which love can flow in one great sisterhood. In closing, touching reference was made to the death of our Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. G. J. Marks, and sympathy expressed with the Council in its loss, and also with a member of the Executive Committee in her recent bereavement.

After a few well-chosen remarks from Mrs. Gibbs, expressing what all present must have felt—Lady Aberdeen's sympathy with individual members of our little Local Council, only one of many forming the National Council of Canada—it in turn one of the Councils of the world presenting the International, over all of which Her Excellency presides, arousing feelings of love and patriotism which found expression in hearty applause.

Mrs. Lambie moved, seconded by Mrs. C. W. Jarvis, a hearty vote of thanks to Her Excellency for her graciousness in remaining to give us such a delightful and profitable afternoon. This was responded to by all present rising.

After adjournment, introductions and less formal chats were indulged in for a short time, and all separated, feeling that after a fifth visit of Her Excellency, the Countess of Aberdeen, we feel that we have been specially favored and inspired to higher things, and considering her the embodiment of the living words of our dear Master, chosen for the motto of the Council of Women, "Do unto others as you would that they should do unto you."

TORONTO LOCAL COUNCIL

The autumn quarterly meeting of the Toronto Local Council was held in the theatre of the Normal School on the afternoon and evening of Monday, Oct. 5th. The President, Mrs. George Dickson, presided at both meetings. Finding in the past that the work to be brought before the public was rather hurried by trying to present it all at one meeting, the experiment was tried of holding this meeting in the two sessions referred to, and much satisfaction has been expressed with the result of the scheme. The afternoon meeting was devoted to the business of the Council, the principal part being the considering in detail the memorandum of work for the year as suggested by the National Council.

As each subject came before the meeting, it was readily discussed. The memorandum had been presented to the Council and the public at a special public meeting for that purpose in June, in the hope that when taken up in the fall, work would be selected from it with prudence.

The resolutions, in some cases slightly modified, were accepted by the Council as subjects which demanded investigation and study, and in some cases action.

Small committees will be drafted by the executive, by the wish of the Council, to carry on the work, and to ensure the greater investigation of each subject, and the greater care of the members, no one will be asked to act on more than one committee.

In considering the resolution re "How medical aid and nursing can be brought nearer to the women of the North-West." A paper on, "A new scheme of colonization of the North-West," prepared by Mrs. O'Byrne, of Niagara Falls, who has given this subject

much thought knowing only too well what settlers have had to suffer, in being miles from medical aid, and from neighborly help. The paper dealt with these difficulties, and in a very interesting way suggested relief by co-operative farming. The settler who would be a land owner according to Mrs. O'Byrne's scheme would require to start with \$1,500 capital.

The President stated that all the work undertaken by the Council last year and still unfinished would be continued this year, being carried on by committees, this includes 1.—The length of working hours; 2.—The protection of women and children; 3.—The spread of pure literature; 4.—Manual training in the schools; 5.—Work undertaken by the Prisoner's Aid Association in which this council had been asked to help.

The evening session was devoted to papers, discussions and music.

Mrs. Curzon prepared a very fine paper on "Reading Circles," which was read by Mrs. Wood.

Miss Fitzgibbon and the President also spoke on this subject. One of the thoughts expressed was to the effect that much profit would be derived, if our Provincial University would develop some scheme for directing and encouraging Reading Circles. Such a scheme would secure for the readers, well directed and satisfactory courses of study and would bring the people closer to the University.

Mrs. James L. Hughes gave a most instructive "Health Talk" proving that they can be of great benefit and must be in many instances invaluable. Realizing that the great motive of the Council movement is the development and promotion of national spirit and national progress. The music selected for the evening was Norwegian, for in Norway the national spirit is the root of the Norwegian art. Mrs. Northrop Spencer, who has just returned from Norway, gave a most charming description of that country, its people and their customs, and in speaking of the Norwegian musicians referred particularly to Grieg and Kerjulf, as from their composition the music of the evening was selected.

Mrs. Spencer also sang one of Kerjulf's beautiful songs "Over the Lofty Mountains," and all who know his folk songs, know how lovely this one is.

Miss Irene Gurney gave two selections from Grieg's compositions, "The Lonely Wanderer" and "Ich Liebe Dich." These numbers were rendered very beautifully, and left with the listeners the conviction that in Norway there is much sentiment, much poetry, much melody. A very successful evening was brought to a close by singing the National Anthem.

WINNIPEG LOCAL COUNCIL.

In connection with the Winnipeg Local Council of Women the President, Mrs. (Justice) Taylor, invited a large number of ladies on Sept. 14th to her house, to meet Madame Routhier, of Quebec, who was visiting Winnipeg. About sixty ladies, representing the various Societies affiliated with the Council accepted the invitation, and spent a delightful time. Each lady being personally presented to Madame Routhier by the genial hostess, and an opportunity afforded of conversing with her. It did not take long to discover how enthusiastically in love with the "Council" aims and ideas Madame Routhier is. After partaking of refreshments, at Mrs. Taylor's request, Madame Routhier kindly spoke for a short time on the work at Quebec, which has been started and fostered by the Woman's Council of that city and of which she has been, until very recently, its President. She told of the reforms in dealing with female prisoners as a result of their action. The new City Hall in Quebec, has now a room set apart for women under arrest, who are searched and attended to by a female officer. Another very important change is, that first offenders are kept separated from those who have grown hardened in crime by its frequent commission. A matron is now supported at the city's expense. A scheme is being set on foot by the Women's Council in Quebec for teaching Domestic Science—Cooking, etc.—Servants girls will be especially helped to obtain all the training necessary to make them either more efficient servants, or thrifty clever house-wives, at a nominal cost. A very delightful feature of this movement is the fact that Catholics, and Protestants of all denominations, are equally interested, and are tendering mutual assistance to this most admirable work. After expressions of appreciation of Madame Routhier's little address, the ladies separated, and in little groups wound their way along the sunny, leafy paths, which lead from Mrs. Taylor's pleasant residence in Fort Rouge, all feeling that not only a very pleasant but also a very profitable time had been spent in Madame Routhier's company, at the invitation of the President.

K. F. PARKER.
Rec. Sec.