

FOR WOMEN

AMUSEMENTS

BUSINESS CONDUCTED YESTERDAY
BY NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

Interesting Sessions Held Morning, Afternoon and Evening—Political Standards in the Federal Arena Dealt With and the Planks Adopted—Luncheon to Delegates at the Y. M. C. I.—Reports Received and Interesting Addresses Delivered.

The National Council of Women Convention resumed sessions yesterday morning at 10 o'clock. Mrs. H. A. Goodwin having charge of the devotional meeting preceding the regular session.

Mrs. W. E. Sanford presided, and greetings were read from Dr. Stowe Guleen and Mrs. Smilie, convener of Public Welfare, unable to attend.

The business of the morning was the consideration of the Women's Platform, an interim report being read by Mrs. Adam Shortt, convener.

The platform was taken up section by section. The first part dealt with Political Standards in the federal arena. The following planks were adopted:

Equal moral standards in public and private life.

Abolition of patronage.

Publication of amounts subscribed to party funds.

Open nomination of political candidates.

Political equality for men and women.

The naturalization of women independent of the nationality of husbands.

The practice of thrift in administration of public and private affairs.

With reference to the plank that a speaking knowledge of either the English or French language for men and women be required before securing the franchise, the following amendment was unanimously passed:

"That those who shall hereafter be added to the electorate shall have a speaking knowledge of either English or French."

Social standards were then taken up. The demand for a child welfare section in the Federal Department of Health was dropped, as this has been provided for.

In connection with the claim dealing with uniform Dominion marriage laws, it was decided that Mrs. Shortt and Mrs. Edwards re-draft the resolution and present it later to the Council.

The interim report on the Women's Platform was as follows:

Mrs. Adam Shortt pointed out that the clause compulsory registration and care of venereal disease should read: "That we support every effort by Dominion and Provincial governments in combating venereal disease, and endorse the establishment of free clinics."

On motion the word "adequate" was inserted, making the clause "Mothers' Pensions" read "Mothers' Adequate Pensions."

The clause "Uniform Dominion divorce laws, with no financial barrier," brought about an animated discussion in which the whole question of divorce was thrashed out. Mrs. Murray, Halifax, moved and Mrs. L. A. Hamilton seconded that clause be altered to read: "Equality of cause for divorce in all divorce courts without any financial barrier."

In addition to the plank "Equality of opportunity without regard to sex to all technical training," a second clause was added reading "Manual training in all school grades for boys and girls."

The clause "The principle of co-operation and profit sharing," after discussion, was altered, on motion, to read: "The principle of co-operation between employer and employee be recognized."

The clause "The Principle of Collective Bargaining," was left for further consideration and was taken up at afternoon session.

Mrs. Willard Smith was asked by W. O. Clark, of the Referendum Committee, Fredericton, to secure a speaker for a mass meeting to be held in Fredericton on Sunday. Judge Murphy and Mrs. L. A. Hamilton were mentioned, and, in the absence of the former, Mrs. Hamilton kindly consented to speak. She leaves St. John by motor and will return by train for the regular sessions.

Adjourned.

The Luncheon.

Luncheon was arranged for the delegates at the Y. M. C. I. on Cliff Street by St. Monica Catholic Ladies' Benefit Society of which Mrs. D. P. Chisholm is president. Mrs. Richard O'Brien, was convener and the guests were most appreciative of the delicious luncheon, the pretty favors consisting of views of St. John tied with Council Colors and a new Canadian flag.

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ad. "Resolved that the National Council approach the Minister of Immigration and Colonization with the request that responsible women of influence be placed at the ports of embarkation in Great Britain and Atlantic Ports in Canada."

Mrs. Adam Shortt moved a resolution regarding immigration which was passed with slight alterations in the wording.

Mrs. Robson of Ottawa then gave a clear account of the work among Overseas girls.

Mrs. Robson

Over a year ago the Colonial Office of the British Government sent an expedition to report upon the openings in employment for women. At that time the British Government expected that about ten thousand of their demobilized war service women would be anxious to come to Canada, and many of them would be willing to enter housework. The first of these women began to come in November, 1918, after the repatriation of the soldiers' dependents. A summary of the passenger lists of the different ships that have arrived at Atlantic ports since then shows the following number of unaccompanied women to have come to Canada: 3274. Of this number 487 were coming to be married, 1176 to join relatives, 1137 for assured employment, and 465 looking for employment.

Realizing that this was rather an unsatisfactory state of affairs, the Department has recently sent a woman officer to England to make inquiries into certain conditions existing at the present time in Great Britain.

Mrs. Robson reports that the ex-service women who a year ago were reported as ready to come to Canada, having become discouraged by the long delay between their demobilization and the time at which ocean passage was available, may be accounted for in the following manner:

1—A small percentage re-absorbed in domestic positions.

2—Another group, on returning to their homes, found their parents greatly aged by the strain of the war and some have had to undertake supporting a family where brothers have been killed.

3—A number, glad to be back in England and civil life, have accepted temporary jobs for the summer.

4—Quite a large number taking advantage of Imperial Government's re-training scheme of from three to six months' duration with maintenance of 41 a week during training. In many cases unemployment benefits are granted to all those women who applied were extended beyond the initial thirteen weeks.

Government's private employment bureau reported a shortage of trained, skilled women from 18 to 30 years of age. The Government Employment Service reports a shortage of 20,000 domestics. Since the armistice 100,000 applications for housework were received and only 40,000 filled. 400,000 women left domestic service during the war. Girls of 14 who in ordinary times would have started as clerical or other work at this age, a week, and having tasted blood, as it were, refused to enter housework. Official Government Employment Bureau stated as their private opinion that the women whom we might expect to come to Canada would be largely new material needing training and guidance.

Private employment agencies placing domestic service say they could place ten servants for every one applying to them, even with the high rate of wages now prevalent in England. Many people interviewed agreed that there would not be a very large movement of immigration of women to Canada for at least a year.

Booking agents doing business in the British Isles and Canadian Government Emigration Agents agree that there is a limited number of bona fide houseworkers willing to come to Canada but unable to pay the increased cost of ocean and rail fare. These women are not eligible under the ex-service scheme of free passage. The Ontario Government, realizing this situation, is already advancing eight pounds towards the passage money of bona fide domestics. The Province of Saskatchewan has decided to put into operation a system of advanced fares, and the Province of Manitoba is prepared to advance fares to at least one hundred women.

THE EVENING SESSION.

Art in Canada.

In charge of Mrs. Dignam, of Toronto, founder of the Women's Art Association of Canada, the evening on Art could hardly fall to be most interesting, and so it proved. Mrs. Sanford presided, and on the platform were Mrs. Dignam, Mrs. Allan, of Moose Jaw, Mrs. L. A. Hamilton, Miss Lindsay, Mrs. Parsons, Mrs. Watt, Mrs. A. C. D. Wilson, of St. John.

In her opening remarks, Mrs. Dignam brought a message from the President of the Women's Art Association, pointing out the value of Art in everyday life, and showing that the term art does not mean pictures, statuary, music alone, but all that is beautiful. The desirability of a dis-

tributive Canadian art was emphasized. It is hoped that all may "lead our minds out." Art is the right way of doing things. Beauty is the flowering of labor and service. Without beauty a nation perishes.

Mrs. Dignam clearly pointed out that art is beauty in all trades and industries. Town-planning and interior decorating were especially mentioned.

Mrs. Dignam then called upon Mrs. A. C. D. Wilson, who read a well thought out and cleverly written paper on Amateur Theatricals. A number of helpful directions for successfully putting on a play and the encouragement of amateurs were given, and the paper was deeply appreciated.

Mrs. Horace Parsons gave a most artistic talk on the Art of Story-Telling, including two examples of the right kind of stories, told in a vivid way which held the attention of every one in the audience. She spoke of the influence of stories simply told, the moral allowed to sink in, using the Bible story of Samson as an example. "Make the story your own and then you can give it to others; choose stories with action; make the characters speak for themselves," were some of the valuable hints given. That the fairy story is a teacher of truths, that the old fables inculcate joyousness, and are of historic interest; that nature stories teach high ideals, and that if you can't get good books for girls you should advise them to read boys' books and so satisfy their desire for hero-worship were new thoughts to many of her hearers.

Mrs. Parsons told the story of the little Fir Tree and one called Hidden Service very beautifully, and urged upon mothers to use rightfully opportunity given to them in the story hour and the desire of the children for stories. The address was on a very high plane and left those who heard it with an inspiration which will last.

Fine and Applied Arts.

The report of the National Convention on Fine and Applied Arts, Mrs. Dignam, was given. It stated that "from reports received it is apparent that all efforts to encourage the founding of technical schools and industrial museums to promote the teaching of art and music in the schools will be supported if planned along organized and practical lines."

Reports from the West are inspiring. The first Local Council meeting of Moose Jaw was in charge of the Art Committee, Christ in Art being the subject. Regina reports progress in the schools, the Educational Club presenting a good picture to the University year group. Music clubs are reported.

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