

and anybody who understands how badly off the settlers of the Northwest are in the time of illness will realize the great importance of work in this direction.

Brandon, another newly formed Council, with Mrs. McEwen, a farmer's wife of renown, as president, had an interesting meeting last week and suggests the possibility of starting a reading room and library, and of trying to diminish the evil of late hours for girls in shops by influencing customers to buy early.

Rat Portage, our last formed Council, has undertaken under Mrs. McKay to work for the establishment of an hospital.

West Algoma, under the presidency of our friend Mrs. Gibbs collects literature for the Aberdeen Association. They have also opened a Woman's Exchange, where work done by women in poor circumstances or by those who want to get some money for charitable objects can be sold. Mrs. Gibbs has been our delegate both at Washington and Toronto, and we have learnt to depend on her valuable help.

Then coming to British Columbia I can speak most highly of the Council at Victoria in every way. They take the deepest interest in all our work. I have already spoken to you of their action in regard to the Board of School Trustees and in Associated Charities. The directors of the Agricultural Exhibition of the province asked them to take up the Industrial Section of the annual exhibition held in Victoria. This they did with the result that it was not only a success in every way but was the only branch of the exhibition which turned out to be self-supporting. (Applause.) We were present at the annual meeting and the papers sent in and the resolutions brought up were very interesting.

I have also spoken to you already regarding Vancouver. They also sent a delegate all the way to Toronto. There are two other little Councils in British Columbia which I must not forget, East Kootenay, with headquarters at Donald—not a very big place. They have started a private school there, a working party for an hospital, a library for the young people and a society of King's Daughters.

The other small Council is Vernon where they also hope to have an hospital by and bye. Meanwhile they have arranged for the women of the place to undertake the industrial section of their annual exhibition, and are helping to support a reading-room.

Then remember that our National Council has asked our Local Councils to form sub-committees to consider three most important subjects:—

1. The length of working hours for women and children. One of our Councils brought up a resolution last year to the effect that we should take steps to get the hours reduced to nine hours a day. But when we came to consider the question we found that there was not sufficient information at our disposal to enable us to reach a definite