

FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

National Council of Women of Canada

HALIFAX, JUNE 15TH, 1897.

Your Excellency, Members of the Council.

The Record which we have to give at the end of this our fourth year is one that must be satisfactory to those who believe in the Council idea, because in it will be shown the steady persevering work which is being done by means of this Federation of Women's organizations, from the one extreme of this great Dominion to the other. The value of any organization is proved not so much in the first year or two of its existence, while the idea, especially if at once popular, attracts, perhaps numbers rather than steady workers, but afterwards, when the first enthusiasm is apt to die out. Then, if progress continues, and the workers are steadfast in carrying out the objects for which they were banded together, it is surely only fair to say that this Association is one of value to the country in which it exists.

Now it may be thankfully said that this is all true of this National Council of Women of Canada. During the first two years of its existence the growth was extremely rapid—far more so than those who, in the beginning, had helped to organize it had ever for a moment expected. During the last two years, and especially in this last year, however, the results of the work done have been far more satisfactory, and have been such, indeed, as to commend the Council to the minds of the leading men and women in the Dominion, and to incline the governments in particular to grant the several petitions that have been made to them by this Council.

Therefore, although no new Local Councils or Nationally organized Societies have been added to the list this year, still it