

"AN HISTORICAL SKETCH 1893-1910."

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The Countess of Aberdeen early recognized the possibilities of a movement intended to join "within the bonds of a common aim and in one great organization the scattered forces of womanhood throughout the world," and to attain unity while allowing freedom for diversity.

The idea of such an Association, however, first found expression in 1886 when Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony visited England and France. Two years later an International Council was formed at Washington and Mrs. Fawcett of England was chosen the President. At the time of the World's Fair in Chicago the first quinquennial meeting was held and Lady Aberdeen was then elected President. She accepted the Presidency again in 1904 and has since been twice re-elected in recognition of distinction and ability, generously given to the extension of the movement in the twenty-two countries which now have National Councils federated in the International body.

Inspired by her, the National Council of Women of Canada was formed in 1893, Local Councils being organized in Toronto, Hamilton and Montreal, in November, 1893. Growth was rapid and now thirty-four Local Councils and seventeen nationally organized Societies are included in the Dominion organization.

After preliminary conferences of local societies of women, Mrs. John MacDougall, a Vice-President of the newly formed National Council, Lady Drummond and others arranged a public meeting in the hall of the Armoury of the Victoria Rifles. Fully a thousand women of different races and creeds attended, making the gathering the most representative one that Montreal had at that time seen. Lady Aberdeen, the President of the National Council, presided and explained the aims and constitution of the National Association. It was then resolved to organize a Local Council of Women of Mont-