

Public Opinion

The Hamilton Canadian Club.

Editor CANADIAN COURIER:

Sir,—Your "Newcomers' Number" was a revelation to your many readers and was a credit to your editorial staff. The extraordinary development of our country and the great influx of immigrants to assist still further in that development, are indeed a source of uncommon satisfaction to all those interested in this "nation in the making."

In comparing the pessimism of fifteen or twenty years ago with the active optimism which obtains to-day, you said of a movement with which the writer has been identified ever since its inauguration in 1892-3: "In 1896 and 1897 the Canadian Club of Hamilton was almost defunct, and the newly-created association of the same character in Toronto had but one hundred members."

As the undersigned was secretary of the Hamilton club from the day of its institution to the year 1895 and was its president until February, 1896, and has been on its council ever since, he may be pardoned for setting you right in this matter.

In the writer's possession are all the early minutes of the council and general meetings of the Canadian Club of Hamilton. An examination of these covering 1895, 1896, 1897 and 1898 reveals the fact that at one regular meeting only were no new members added. In 1896-97 the membership stood at from 400 to 500 and the two years were times of exceptional activity. We were trying out the now discarded club-room idea, and notwithstanding the time, means and energy spent upon it, yet found time to permit sections to study history, literature, art, music, resources, etc., of Canada, held public meetings each month devoted to the consideration of "Municipal Taxation," "Good Goods," "Bad Roads," "Bi-Metalism," "Future of Canada," "Independence," "Imperial Federation," "Mines of Ontario," "Hudson's Bay Route," "A Monument for Stoney Creek Battlefield," "Mrs. Fessenden's Flag Day Project," "Sport in Canada," "Immigration into the Northwest," "Canadian Club Extension," "Canada," "The Young Canadian in Politics," "Critical Times in Canada," etc. The speakers included such men as the late James Barnard, Andrew Pattullo, A. F. Pirie, Dr. Doolittle, Dr. Breckenridge, Dr. Beavis, O. A. Howland, Principal Grant, B. E. Walker, Dean Harris, Dr. Parkin, Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, John Crerar, Hon. Frederick Borden, J. H. Long, Dr. McLellan, Dr. Lyle, W. Sanford Evans, Archibald Blue, Alexander Muir, Colonel Scoble, Rev. Neil McPherson, W. W. Buchanan, W. Blair Bruce, and others including the editor of the *Canadian Magazine* at that time.

In the year 1897 the club passed a loyal address to Her Majesty the Queen, engrossed and illuminated it and entrusted it to the care of the late James Thomson, who delivered it at the Colonial Office in London.

The club's receipts in 1897 were \$1,332 from all sources. In 1896 two thousand bound copies of its constitution were printed for local and national use. In these years the club's annual dinners, receptions, and larger entertainments were of more than local interest, and the Club Extension Committee sought earnestly and persistently to persuade the rest of Canada that "Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?" might justly be answered in the affirmative, as per local demonstration of the inherent value of the movement in developing public spirit and in presenting national ideals calculated to pro-



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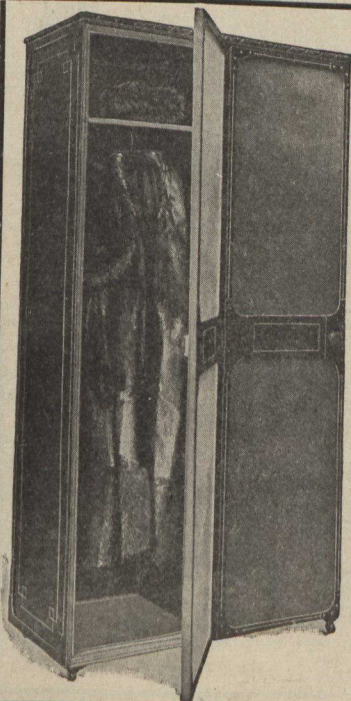
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