

turned, the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire can look back on the past five years and feel thankful that they had at their disposal an organization and equipment standing ready to do the important work that the crisis gave them to do. The I.O.D.E. possessed machinery that was probably not equalled and certainly not surpassed by any other women's society in the Empire. In this regard they occupied a unique position in Canada. They provided channels through which patriotic enterprises could reach every part of the Dominion, and they were able to accomplish many things promptly because they were prepared and waiting when the call came.

It is a striking co-incidence that a minor imperial crisis brought the Daughters of the Empire into existence, and that the greatest crisis, not only in the life of the Empire but in the history of the modern world, gave the Order the opportunity to justify so splendidly its existence. During the anxious years of the South African War, Mrs. Clark Murray of Montreal, conceived the idea of forming the organization of women that was to become in course of time the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire. There was something like inspiration in Mrs. Clark Murray's vision of what the women could do towards preserving the unity of the Empire.

It seems strange now to think that only twenty years ago there were a great many men and women who did not understand the value in the world of a federation of free dominions like that which we call the British Empire. The ideas of international co-operation and imperial federation have been completely revolutionized since the days of the struggle in South Africa, when the course of events gave loyal Canadians reason to feel something like