

great distinguishing characteristic—that it brings together and blends for common work the most earnest women of every place irrespective of creed, class, political party or race That is the great achievement of the Council. This place and this room ever recall the words with which Sir John Thompson dwelt on this feature of the movement which he, from the very outset, understood and appreciated as few have done. Let me quote them to you :

“ Let me say that no class in this country could appreciate more than public men the benefits that are aimed at in this movement. One other great and inevitable result will be that besides helping forward all the charitable institutions in the country, it will bind together in sympathy and closer citizenship those who are interested in charitable work—it will take them out of the influence of the thousand and one influences which divide our people. Any movement which tends to bring together the people of the various provinces, of different opinions, politics and beliefs, will be patriotic in its aim and in its work, and divinely blessed in its results.”

I tender all the congratulations which it is in my power to express, in regard to the patriotic tendency of the deliberations of the Conference, as shown in two or three of the resolutions which I have glanced over, which declare for the consolidation of the Canadian people, and for teaching the young the value of their country and training them to love and serve their country as they ought to do.

For these reasons I have the greatest pleasure in seconding this resolution ; and on behalf of the public men and private citizens of this country, I extend to you, the women of this Council, our heartiest congratulation and our determination to co-operate in this good and noble work.”

Members of the Council, we have been so pressed with work that I have not had time to lay before you a few suggestions which perhaps you may be willing to consider for adoption in your future work, and I hope the present is not an unsuitable time for alluding to them. And first (1) I wish we could plan some scheme whereby we could interest and secure the co-operation of our young girls in Council work. Many of them do help splendidly already, and this week we are under deep obligation to many of the young ladies who have worked for us in a hundred and one ways—both as attendants at the meeting, in helping in the luncheon arrangements, and so on. But what I mean is that we have

*Rt. Hon. Sir
John Thompson
on Council*

*Co-operation
of Young
Girls.*