



Dr. Margaret Gordon and Mrs. Hamilton, of Toronto, on the Right and Left, and Mrs. Tilley, of London, in the Centre—All Active Members of the National Council.



On the Right, Mrs. Willoughby Cummings, Toronto, Corresponding Secretary of National Body. And Mrs. Joseph Marshall, a London Lady, Prominent in That City's Local Council.



Representative Trio—Mrs. Torrington, Toronto, on Extreme Left; Mrs. Ritchie, Halifax, an Energetic Delegate, in the Centre; and Mrs. Perry, President of the West Algoma Council.

National Council of Women

Mirroring Its Nineteenth Annual Meeting in London

By MARGARET WALKER

"THE Hospitable" is the sobriquet which London has abundantly earned just lately. Her provision for the reception as well as entertainment of the National Council of Women of Canada during its nineteenth annual congress was hearty, complete and admirable in every way. That centre was chosen largely in deference to "London's grand old lady," Mrs. Harriet Boomer, who is president of the London Local Council.



Mrs. George Watt, Brantford, Ont., Treasurer National Council.

Particularly is credit due when it is remembered that H. R. H. the Duchess of Connaught paid the assemblage a visit on May 29th, accompanied by the Princess Patricia. H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught also was present in the city, to honour the unveiling of the citizens' monument erected to the Boer War heroes.

The city's noble welcome was a threefold one—civic, ecclesiastic and scholastic. The Mayor, Mr. Graham, bestowed the freedom of the city, the Bishop of Huron conferred the freedom of the churches, and the Principal of the Normal School extended the heartiest co-operation on behalf of both himself and the teaching staff. Mrs. Boomer's splendid address included a letter from Lady Aberdeen, first president of the National organization. It was flowery in this that it spoke of a pretty provision for boutonnières for the whole of the delegation. Accordingly, dainty nosegays tied with the Council's special shades of blue did honour to the visit of the Royal Duchess later. "Altior," her own motto, left to the National Council, concluded the letter of thanks to Lady Aberdeen.

The delegation was an extremely large and representative one and debate sparked with the life of a National interest. Notably brilliant were some Torontonians. Indeed, Toronto has reason to congratulate herself on being the home city of several of the foremost and ablest of the officers of the body. The President for Canada is Mrs. Torrington, wife of Dr. Torrington, well known in musical circles—who possesses in a happy amplitude the presidential graces, authority, tact and "savoir faire." The two capable secretaries, corresponding and recording, are, respectively, Mrs. Willoughby Cummings and Mrs. Plumptre, both Toronto women, the latter, wife of the Rector of St. James'. Mrs. Archibald Huestis, president of the Toronto Local Council, was frequently heard during the discussions that arose day after day and, by virtue of her practical views, most lucidly expressed, elicited an unvarying commendation. The good-will of the London people was magnificently expressed in the large gatherings that nightly attended the general public meetings.

Needs vital to the prosperity of the nation and questions of an urgency not this time to be waived were discussed



Their Excellencies of Connaught Received at the Station, London. The Elderly Lady at the Right is Mrs. Boomer.

with an intensity of ardour and eloquence in a long series of practical business sessions.

The question of caring for feeble-minded women and children was dealt with—a problem introduced some eighteen years ago by Mrs. Tilley, whose picture appears herewith. Reference was made to Dr. Helen MacMurchy's statistics, revealing officially the many appalling conditions prevalent among this class. The Council decided to make a strong appeal to the Legislature for the prompt establishment of separate institutions and for

special provision for the teaching of the young, whereby criminal tendencies may positively be stayed and mental and moral growth stimulated.

Debate was waged both hot and long over the question of admitting Sikh women into the West. Eastern delegates argued for the rights of the Hindus as fellow subjects under the British flag. Vancouver advocated the shutting of Sikh women out, advancing the information that the central school of that city is now exclusively attended by Oriental children and quoting the dissatisfaction of Western parents. Winnipeg pointed out the error of segregation as a hindrance to the new-comers' naturalization and told a pretty story of "Canadians All" of a Manitoba school of many races. The upshot was the passing of a sensible resolution to ask the Dominion Government either to permit Sikh women to join their male relatives here, or to repatriate Sikh men.

This year the anti-white slave traffic workers had a noble mouth-piece and veteran agitator in the person of Mr. W. A. Coote, of the National Vigilance Association, England. Mr. Coote has just recently, after years of arduous work, succeeded in establishing an international bureau. That Canada signed the treaty some five years ago was an item of news to many a foremost member. One clause provided for the official guarding of the usual points of danger, such as railway stations, employment bureaux and the like, in which regard nothing has as yet been done. Mr. Coote, for the splendid work which he has achieved, has received decoration at the hands of three countries, namely, Spain, Germany and France.

Patriotism in its very noblest form, which is humanitarianism, struck the keynote of the great foregathering. And this sentiment was emphasized in that it was shared in by the foremost woman of the land, the gracious Duchess, and by her charming daughter, the Princess. Their Highnesses were the recipients of several handsome bouquets, which with characteristic thoughtfulness they later on presented to the patients in Victoria Hospital.

And so ended the annals of perhaps the weightiest congress on record since the inception of the Council in 1893.

Well worthy of comment before we close, however, was the total absence of friction in the personal form. Dignity was conspicuous even during the most earnest debates.

All of which goes to prove that the National Council of Women of Canada is too big for petty altercation. The members, obviously, realize the oneness of the body, and when such an organization realizes that its objects—the emancipation and coronation of woman, the preservation of the national health, the education and redemption of the native down-trodden and the stranger—bid fair to see the grand day of realization.

The efforts of the membership have achieved, in the above regards, a foundation which already promises a magnificent super-structure, and not too great praise can the nation accord the Council—not only its splendid executive group, but also its unwearied rank and file—for the superb successes which it has accomplished.



After the Arrival of Their Royal Highnesses, the Duke, Duchess and Princess, at the Normal School, London. Mayor Graham Reading the Welcoming Address.