



NOTES FOR THE COUNCIL.

A very universal and most heartfelt sympathy has been felt by all the members of the National Council with Lady Tilley in the great bereavement which she has experienced in the death of her much-loved husband, Sir Samuel Leonard Tilley. Sir Leonard's public life and the great services which he has rendered to the Dominion are too well known to need any mention here. But all may not be aware of how warm a friend he was to the National Council of Women. He took a most cordial and practical interest in the organisation of the St. John Local Council, and had ever continued its hearty supporter and wise counsellor. And when we remember how much our Council work in New Brunswick owes to Lady Tilley, we can realise to some extent the debt of grateful remembrance that is due to Sir Leonard. We are sure that many prayers have been offered up that Lady Tilley may be sustained and strengthened in her deep sorrow by One whose comfort alone availeth.

In another column we record the pleasant announcement made personally to the Quebec Local Council by the Hon. T. T. Flynn, Premier of the Province of Quebec, with reference to the appointment of women factory inspectors. It will be remembered how earnest a part the Local Council of Montreal has taken in urging this reform and both its members and those of the Quebec Local Council will feel equally gratified to hear that on the 2nd of July Mr. Flynn was able to officially communicate to the President of the National Council the appointment of two women factory inspectors for the Province of Quebec, namely, Mrs. King, *nee* Vesot, and Madame Provancher. The work and reports of these ladies will be looked forward to with much interest, and an earnest expectation is entertained that they will be able to do much for the comfort and well-being of the toilers in the factories and workshops of the Province. Mr. P. T. Tobin, president of the Trades and Labour Congress, has written a very cordial letter to Her Excellency, on behalf of the organisation whom he represents, to express its appreciation of the efforts made by the National Council and by the Local Councils of Montreal and Quebec to obtain this appointment.

With reference to this subject, the substance of an interesting paper by Mrs. G. A. Smith, concerning some inquiries set on foot on the industrial condition of working women in Scotland, will be found in the report of the Quebec Council meeting. Mrs. G. A. Smith and her husband, the Rev. Professor Smith, the well-known writer and theologian, have both taken an energetic part in promoting the Council for Women's Trades in Scotland.

Many of our delegates at Montreal will have heard with concern of the disfiguring accident whereby Miss Walshe, one of the Halifax delegates, was detained in Montreal for several weeks owing to a dislocation of the shoulder, sustained through a slip when getting out of a tram-car. We are all glad to learn that she is now very much better, and trust that she will owe no grudge to the Council.

To another of our delegates, one of the earnest secretaries of the Quebec Local Council, Miss Stuart,

we all unite in tendering heartiest congratulations and most cordial good wishes on her approaching marriage. We condole with the Quebec Council on losing her; we congratulate Montreal on making such an acquisition.

We are glad to hear that Miss Skelton, the secretary of the Home Reading Union, is about to put herself in communication with the different Local Councils with a view of facilitating the formation of the reading circles, which we so strongly recommend, and of explaining how the books required may be obtained.

MEETINGS OF COUNCILS.

MEETING OF QUEBEC LOCAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

There was a large attendance at the Citadel for the meeting of the Local Council, held June 9th, at which the delegates to Montreal were expected to give in their report of the National Council.

After silent prayer, Miss Ronand read the minutes of the last Council meeting, and later on each of the delegates, namely, Madame Routhier, Miss Ronand, Miss Stuart, Madame Jules Tessier and Madame Lavry, made some remarks; Miss Stuart leading off with a very full and interesting account of the doings at the annual meeting. Great appreciation was expressed of the hospitality received in Montreal. A pleasant feature of the gathering was the hearty congratulations tendered to Miss Stuart, one of the Council secretaries, on her approaching marriage. The members of the Quebec Council have every reason to feel grateful to Miss Stuart for the devoted service she has rendered to them from the outset of the Council, and it is without some very natural pangs of jealousy that they relinquish her to the sister Council at Montreal.

There is another reason why the Quebec Council meeting of June 9th will be remembered with peculiar gratification. At the commencement of the meeting, after Her Excellency had welcomed the members and expressed her own and His Excellency's pleasure at seeing them at the Citadel, she continued:

We have predicted, also, an unexpected pleasure for the members of the Council in having secured the attendance of the Hon. Mr. Flynn, whom we welcome very cordially to this, his first meeting of the Council, and we trust that it will be by no means his last. (Applause.)

This afternoon there was to have been a resolution introduced by two of our members, asking our secretary to inquire from the Provincial Government whether any steps were proposed to be taken regarding the appointment of a woman factory inspector for this Province. I think, ladies, you will find that resolution altogether unnecessary and that when I call upon Mr. Flynn, he will make a statement to you on the subject. (Applause.)

Her Excellency then called upon Mr. Flynn to address the meeting.

The Hon. Mr. Flynn spoke as follows: I feel extremely thankful to their Excellencies for their kind invitation to attend for a moment at this meeting. Having had a conversation with Her Excellency on the importance of having a lady inspector of factories added to the other inspectors already existing, and Her Excellency having pointed out to me what had already been done by your Association in that direction, I am most happy now to state publicly before you ladies that I concur fully in the views that you have expressed, and I am most happy to confirm and ratify the assurance given by my predecessor, the Hon. Mr. Taillon. It will be a pleasant duty for me immediately (to-morrow probably) to examine the law on this subject and see if the law, as it is now, is sufficient to permit of the appointment of a lady inspector. If it is not quite sufficient, I presume that a temporary arrangement might be made by which your views could be carried out. In any case, I have no hesitation in saying that if the present legislation is not sufficient, at the next session of Parliament

the necessary amendment will be introduced in order that the Government may have full power to make the appointment. (Applause.) I am not here to make a speech, ladies, and would not feel quite at home if I attempted to do so. Accustomed to the usages of Parliament, accustomed to speak before gentlemen in our legislative chambers for a number of years, and accustomed to speak at meetings of the electors throughout the Province, I must say that I am at a loss when addressing myself to a Parliament of this kind, composed exclusively of ladies, and feel rather timid when called upon to speak at such an assemblage as this. (Laughter.) I must, however, say that I cannot but heartily congratulate Her Excellency and you ladies on the good work that you have been performing since your Association has been established. I have read in one of the French poets, I think, these words, and as I do not believe we can completely translate the idea into English, I will quote them:

"Le monde est un océan de sympathies dont nous ne buvons qu'une goutte, lorsque nous pourrions en absorber des torrents."

I believe, Your Excellency, that that is your motto, and that in this Association you are indeed endeavouring to carry it out literally. "The world is an ocean of sympathy of which we only drink a few drops whilst we may absorb torrents."

I take it that in your Association the principles of goodwill and of unity amongst all classes throughout the Dominion of Canada are what you aim at most, and as regards your other work of charity and philanthropy you have a large field, no doubt, for your usefulness. Taking simply the point to which you have referred—the inspection of factories by lady inspectors—I may say that in visiting many of the factories in Quebec and the Dominion of Canada generally, I have myself very often been struck by the number of operatives, young girls and women, who, if they had any complaint to make, must apply to the inspector, and often it has occurred to me that there was some room for improvement. It is therefore due to Your Excellency, and to you ladies, that this idea should be now put in practice. Much credit is due to your Association in this matter. I shall conclude by saying that I am in full sympathy with you, Your Excellency, and the other ladies present in your good work of charity and philanthropy. (Loud applause.)

Lady Casault moved, seconded by Madame Jules Tessier, that the Quebec Local Council of Women have heard with great pleasure the statement made by the Hon. E. J. Flynn, Premier of this Province, and beg to tender him their cordial thanks for the assurance he has given them regarding the forthcoming appointment of a woman factory inspector.

The resolution was carried unanimously amid applause.

Her Excellency then addressed the meeting in regard to the subjects remitted to the Local Council from the National Council for consideration and report.

Working Women in Scotland.

A most interesting paper was read at the same meeting on the work of the Council for Women's Trades in Scotland, by Mrs. Smith, wife of the Rev. Dr. Smith, Professor of Glasgow University.

Mrs. Smith said: If there is one branch of labour about which we are more ignorant than another—about which economists know so little that they are not able to reckon its effects upon industrial conditions—it is women's labours. There is no doubt that this is one of the greatest problems of the present day, for the women's labours question involves so much else with it. The whole matter of men's labour is affected by it, and it is almost impossible to determine how penetrating that effect is.

In England and in Scotland people have been considering these things recently, and a few years ago our National Council for Women's Trades was formed in Scotland. Under the name at first of the Women's Protective and Provident League, it tried to impress upon women the duty of saving and carefulness, and combining for purposes of protection and investigation.

This has now developed into the larger organisation known as the Council for Women's Trades. It is representative of all women's trades, it is quite un denominational; its centre is in Glasgow as the largest industrial centre in Scotland, but its meetings are attended by delegates from all parts of the country. Its committees are formed of both men and women—many of them persons of influence and position who are interested in these questions—along with workers themselves from the various trades.

The Council has in view three great objects. (1.) That of inquiry and investigation as to the condition of women's labour. (2.) The assisting and organising women. (3.) Seeing that the necessary legislative reforms are brought up and carried out.

Of these three sections, the stress of the society's effort is laid upon the first, mainly for the reasons already touched upon, that the conditions of women's labour are so little understood, and its results must, of course, determine any efforts in either of the other two directions.

This committee seeks to get at facts of women's labour, for without an accurate knowledge of these it is impossible that any efforts of improvement can avail.