

MONDAY MARKS PASSING OF FIFTY GOLDEN YEARS FOR WOMEN'S SOCIETY

Unveiling of Tablet Bearing Names of Charter Members of the Women's Christian Association, Will Take Place at 3 o'clock in Home For Aged People.

ROMANCE PLAYED PART IN EARLY DAYS

Fifty-one years ago a little group of women assembled in London. Where is not known. It may have been in the old Victoria hall, but that matters not. The gathering took place because some one had dreamed a dream—a dream so beautiful in its conception and so startling in its possibilities that it gripped the imagination of the London women of that time.

The dream was of a society whose chief concern would be the unfortunate ones of the community—the relief of the poor and needy; the housing of the friendless girl; the reformation of the fallen woman; the care of her little nameless children; the visitation of the pain-wracked patient in hospital; the distribution of food and clothing where such were needed.

In short these pioneer women had hit upon the idea that since they were taking the name "Christian," their lives should be a practical demonstration of the meaning of that name.

Out of this dream has grown the Women's Christian Association of today, a powerful and influential body of women, managing the Victoria home for incurables and the Thomas McCormick home for aged people, as well as carrying on an extensive relief work in the city.

This body of women has worked quietly in the city and for this reason the name of Women's Christian Association has come very little before the public. Yet its membership, down through the years, has been made up of women from the families best known in London, and of women who have been a potent force in the community.

Incorporated 1875.

Although the preliminary organization meetings of this society were held in 1874, it was not until March 15 of the following year that application was made to the Ontario government for incorporation as a society. And next Monday marks the fiftieth anniversary of this official act of organization.

It will be given public recognition on the Monday following, March 15, when brass tablets bearing the names of the charter members of the society, will be placed in both the Victoria home for incurables, South London, and in the aged people's home, on Richmond street north.

The public ceremony will take place in the older of these institutions, the home for aged people, where Dean Norman Tucker is being asked to give the address, while special guests of the occasion will be the relatives of the founders of the organization. When the tablet is unveiled on that day by Mrs. D. S. Perrin and Mrs. T. G. Davis, two of the early members of the society, it will reveal the following names, all charter members: Ellen H. Gregston, Mariette P. Lancaster, Elizabeth Ingram, Annie Lancaster Newcomb, Susan Jackson Webster, Dorcas Ward, Charlotte Smiley, Annie S. Parker, Sarah J. Flock and Phoebe Glass.

Beset With Difficulties.

In the early days the organization was beset with many difficulties, especially financial difficulties. Old minute books show a succession of unpaid bills and yearly balance on the wrong side. Those who knew the situation at that time, say that if credit had not been given (she was treasurer for many years) the society would not have been able to pull through.

People had not then learned to "give" as they give today. And a dollar subscription was untold wealth to the energetic collector. Some idea of the difficulties of the organization in those days is obtained from a newspaper account of the sixth annual meeting, held in 1880. It happened that the Hon. Vice-Chancellor Blake, uncle of Hume Cronyn, M.P., was the speaker of the occasion, and he related the situation in mild terms. Here is what he said about it:

"The annual meeting of the Women's Christian Association of Victoria was held last night in previous years, which means that the auditorium was crowded. It was to be noticed that in numbers the ladies of gentlemen were quite sufficient to give the alleged sterner sex an honest representation. "Sitting Uncomfortable."

"The proceedings were of a most interesting character throughout, and although the temperature rendered sitting rather uncomfortable, the exercises were listened to attentively. Very Rev. Dean Boomer presided.

"The treasurer, Mrs. Perrin, reported the receipts for the year to be \$3,545.97 (incidentally about \$90,000 passed through the treasury in 1924) and the disbursements \$3,544.22, leaving a very small balance. There were, however, accounts unpaid to the amount of \$157.50 and a mortgage on the refuge amounting to \$1,648.75. Hon. Vice-Chancellor Blake seems to have been introduced at this point, whether intentionally or not is left to conjecture. At any rate, he tactfully referred to the report just read. "It would be encouraging to the ladies to know, he said, that the queen of England recognized by personal working the objects of an organization similar to that under whose auspices the meeting was being held."

"He noticed with regret that a debt of \$159 was hanging over the association and hoped that it would be liquidated before the meeting was dispersed. He characterized it as disgraceful that this debt should be allowed to exist in so large and influential a county as Middlesex. He pointed to the innumerable amount of what this society had done in striking

at the roots of evil by the work in the refuge and jail. Their work was deserving of the warmest support." The press neglected to record whether the gentlemen present came to the rescue and wiped out the deficit, as suggested by the Hon. Mr. Blake.

Excursion to Niagara.

The association, however, did not stop at any means to raise funds. An early newspaper report tells of an excursion to Niagara Falls under the auspices of the society. The trip was arranged with the Great Western Railway to raise money for the organization. It is recorded that between 200 and 300 persons left London to see the Falls that day.

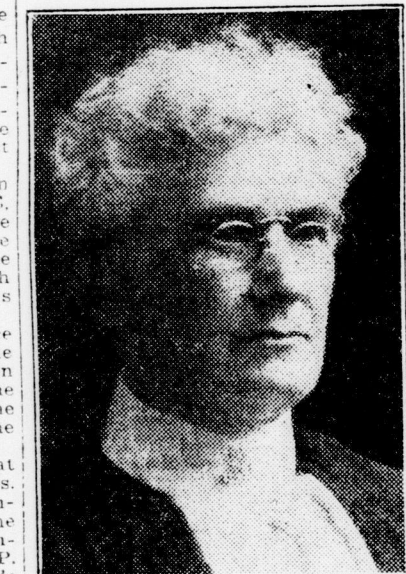
Among the early undertakings of the society was a soup kitchen which was opened on the market square. The members worked here energetically distributing food to the hungry. Those who look back upon the days of the soup kitchen declare that the citizens of today do not know what hard times are. The distress in the city fifty years ago was very great, but the merchants were generous. And many a small boy, son of some member of the association, has hitched up father's horse after school and go from shop to shop collecting food for the soup kitchen.

For many years the women's refuge and infants' home was the outstanding institution of the society. This home was first opened on Grey street on Sept. 28, 1879, because the members of the Women's Christian Association wanted "to afford a means of reformation to every fallen woman who seriously desired to amend her life."

Women's Refuge Started.

The building was purchased at a cost of \$700, of which \$400 was paid down and \$300 raised on a mortgage. For two years the work was carried on quietly in that building, a small cottage. Then, when it proved too small, the building on St. James street, which remained the refuge and infants' home, was purchased at a cost of \$3,000.

Here the society concentrated its work for many years. Women, des-



MRS. T. G. DAVIS.

who for the past thirty years has been an energetic worker in the association, will assist at the unveiling of the tablet on Monday. For many years Mrs. Davis was the efficient buyer for all three homes of the society.

titute and wandering the streets were taken into the home and their children were born there. The mothers, as they gathered strength, were given household tasks to help pay for their board. In connection with the refuge, such an advertisement as this often appeared:

"The ladies earnestly solicit work from the public, such as washing, ironing, sewing, quilting, knitting, etc. All orders sent to the refuge will be attended to promptly and reasonable rates charged."

In this way they were able to keep mother and child together as long as that was deemed advisable. Later the children were given out for adoption, and the mothers had learned enough about household work to earn their own livelihood, when they left the institution.

In 1899 the refuge proved too small to accommodate the inmates, and four new rooms, a laundry and bathroom were added. These alterations were made during the year 1900, while the inmates were housed in the schoolroom belonging to St. James Presbyterian church on Oxford street, which had been kindly placed at the disposal of the committee.

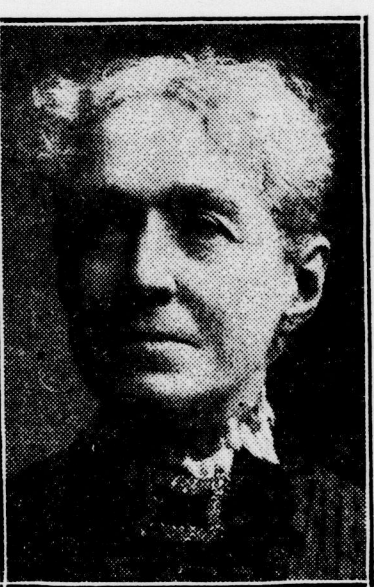
The refuge continued to be a valuable London institution until about seven years ago. The building of the new Salvation Army refuge in South London, made it no longer necessary. And two years after it was closed as a refuge, the building was purchased



VICTORIA HOME FOR INCURABLES.

This splendid modern building, located on Grand avenue, South London, houses 72 patients. Every bed is now filled and the association, to meet the growing needs of the institution, has decided to erect a wing at the east of the building, which will accommodate 30 more patients.

WOMEN and THE HOME



PIONEER MEMBERS OF THE WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

The charter members of the Women's Christian association were a remarkable group of women. Above may be seen, from left to right, Mrs. Ellen H. Gregston, the first president; Mrs. J. Lancaster, the first vice-president; and mother of S. Lancaster and Whit Lancaster of this city; Mrs. Annie Newcomb, the first secretary, who later became Mrs. Henry Matthews, mother of Mrs. George Copeland; Mrs. George Web-

ster, the first treasurer, mother of Miss Belle Webster. It is interesting to note that the buckle worn by Mrs. Lancaster once decorated the breeches of King George IV, of England. Joseph Brant, Indian chieftain, who founded Brantford, admired it during a visit at the English court, and the king, in his graciousness, pulled it off and presented it to him. Later Brant presented it to Mrs. Lancaster. The buckle is of silver with brilliant.

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The patients from the aged women's home on King street, were speedily transferred to the new home in September of 1922, and have remained there for the last quarter of a century. The building has been kept in splendid repair and is modern in every way. During his lifetime, Mr. McCormick was constantly making improvements. He had the attic finished to provide more room and fenced and put the grounds in order, planting trees and shrubs. It was through his personal effort that a large vegetable garden was laid out, thus giving the aged men something with which to occupy their time and interest.

In 1901 Mr. McCormick erected the large verandas which provide a pleasant resting place for the aged inhabitants of the home, and give those who cannot walk an opportunity to get out into the fresh air.

Other names which appear in the early records are Mrs. Hopkins, Mrs. St. John Hyttenrauch, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. G. N. Dickson, Mrs. Dignam, Mrs. Henderson, Miss Shaw, Mrs. J. H. Belton, Mrs. Burns, Mrs. Peto, Miss Kennedy, Mrs. Jeffrey and Mrs. George Reid.

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An Important Meeting.

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"A statement was made to the effect that \$200 per annum would be available for the support of a home for aged women. Mrs. Labatt then moved and Mrs. Worthington seconded that a home for aged women be established. Carried unanimously. Moved by Mrs. Tilley and seconded by Mrs. Labatt, that Mesdames P. Cronyn, Kent and Worthington be a committee to look for a suitable building for a home. Carried. Moved by Mrs. Tilley, seconded by Mrs. Cronyn, that the committee consist of the following ladies: Mesdames J. H. Fraser, Duffield, Gibson, Smallman, Murray, Macbeth, Laid and Thompson."

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The two homes ran on separately under the jurisdiction of the Women's Christian association until 1892, when the splendid new home on Richmond street north was erected by Thomas McCormick, who had a deep sympathy in his heart for the aged people of the city who were left friendless and with little money.

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BELTS ENCIRCLE LATEST GOWNS

If You Want To Be Different, Wear a Plaid Taffeta Frock.

Special To The Advertiser. By ALICE LAMONT. Copyright.

New York, March 9.—Many a sheik and movie hero has been embarrassed lately when it came to putting his arm about a feminine waist. For frocks have been waistless if wasteful. Now, however, the youthful dresses are marking the waist by broad belts of leather or gold skin. Some of the frocks are slightly bloused over these and not even a casual lover can go wrong.

What is called by the designer "A fountain of paradise plumes" gives chic to the latest of the pique straw spring hats imported from London. Of course, if one cannot afford a fountain, it is possible to have a spray of paradise.

Do you want to be different? Then wear a plaid taffeta frock made with a tight bodice and the bustle skirt of the 1880's. If you do, you will at least have the sanction and approval of so great a designer as Mr. Paul Poiret, who includes such a model in his latest collection, according to cables to his connections here.

The jeweled and beaded effects which have been such a predominant feature of the evening frocks, have made their way downward to the evening slippers. The pumps are covered with embroidery either worked in silks and brilliant hues, metallic threads or in bright colored beads.

CLUB NEWS

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE.

At a special meeting yesterday afternoon of the Catholic Women's League, held in St. Peter's Hall, further arrangements were made for the membership drive. Mrs. J. J. Roach presided in the absence of Mrs. B. C. McCann. The conveners for the drive were appointed and they include the presidents of the mothers' units of the city, except where the presidents cannot act, and in this case their place has been filled.

The conveners include Miss Margaret Darcy, who is the general convenor for St. Peter's parish; Mrs. Pococke, St. Joseph's unit; Mrs. Lombardo, St. John's; Mrs. Furanna, who is supplying for Mrs. Quigley of the Sacred Heart; Mrs. Frank Benenati, who is supplying for Mrs. Corcoran of St. Michael's; Mrs. Oliver Cromwell, St. Mary's; and Mrs. J. Clifford, St. Patrick's Unit.

WOMEN'S LABOR PARTY.

Mrs. Lillian Greenslade was honored at last night's meeting of the Women's Labor Party, when she was presented with a handsome dish, given in appreciation of her services to the party. The meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Fred White, Quebec street, and took the form of a social evening. Yellow flowers and ferns were effectively arranged throughout the rooms and during the supper hour the hostess was assisted by Mrs. William Stinson and Mrs. Floyd Wells. Covers were laid for 34 at small tables.

Plans have been made for a bazaar



MISS ANNE GEORGE.

who plays the leading role in the delightful comedy-drama, "The Path Across the Hill," which is being presented in St. Andrew's hall, this evening under the auspices of the young people's federation of St. Andrew's church. Miss George plays the part of Ruth Conrad, nicknamed "Bobbie."

to be held in the near future, and a shower of aprons for the bazaar was a feature of the evening. The program included delightful vocal selections by Mr. Elliott, Mrs. A. Abillgarde and J. Nixon; readings by Mrs. Ada Greenslade, and a duet by Mrs. Lillian Greenslade and J. Nixon.

CHELSEA MOTHERS' CLUB.

A fine program was presented before the Chelsea Green Mothers' club last night, when special guests of the occasion were members from the Trafalgar and Aberdeen Mothers' clubs. Plans were made to hold a talent tea at the home of Mrs. J. French, 41 Josephine street, on March 25. Mr. Elliott presented an interesting report on the child welfare work. Mrs. H. J. Childs, who was to have been the speaker, was unable to be present. Mrs. Caton presided, and following the meeting a social half-hour was held.

The excellent program included recitations by Mrs. Arthur Raymond and Mrs. C. Ings; vocal numbers by Frank Aldridge, H. Vine, acting as accompanist; piano solos by Mrs. Dean. Mrs. C. Young played the opening hymn.

EDINBURGH CASTLE CAMP.

Final arrangements for a banquet to be held at the De Luxe Cafe on March 14, the occasion of the anniversary of the lodge, were made at last night's meeting of Edinburgh Castle camp, held in Moose hall. Plans are also being made for a convention of the lodge, to be held shortly in Hyman hall. A hearty vote of thanks was tendered Mrs. A. Henderson and her committee for the successful evening held recently. Mrs. Mary Robinson was hostess for the social hour which followed the meeting.

EMPRESS AVENUE MOTHERS.

The Empress avenue mothers' club will have as its special guest tonight the members of the Chesley avenue mothers' club, who will present the program. Mrs. George Bryant will occupy the chair.

Mrs. Fred Payne, worthy mistress of Ruth L. O. B. A. Komoka, and Mrs. George Raynard, worthy mistress of Harmony lodge, L. O. B. A. this city, have left to attend the annual meeting of the Ontario provincial L. O. B. A. held in North Bay.



It takes healthy gums to keep healthy teeth

Bleeding gums are Nature's first warning of Pyorrhea. Then they begin to recede, lose that rich, pink color. Disease-breeding poisons collect in pus pockets and often drain through the entire system. If used in time and used consistently, Forhan's will prevent