

and then affliction in noble bosoms, and their gratitude to the merciful, was deeply convincing.

Her Excellency cited many historical instances in support of her argument, and among them that of Alexander the Great and his steed Bucephalus. His Excellency kindly rendered a few remarks on the same subject, accompanied by some very practical hints to "the small boy," bespoke for the children a school holiday, and then requesting the boys to do their best, as leader guided them in the giving of "three hearty British cheers"! His Excellency will have concluded that the climate of Rat Portage is to an extreme degree, conducive to lung power!

Mrs. McKay, president of the Council, and Mr. Barnes, Mayor of the town, on behalf of the Council, the children, and the citizens generally, first welcomed, and later thanked their Excellencies for the good done us by their visit to Rat Portage.

His Excellency and members of the Vice-Regal party left the hall before the special session of the Executive Committee of the R. P. Women's Council at which her Excellency presided.

The "Band of Mercy" audience having given place, her Excellency as president of the National Council of Women of Canada, took in review the various subjects embraced in the verbatim report of the last General Council, held at Montreal.

Her Excellency's general and particular treatment of the various subjects evolved always this desideratum—the sympathy of womankind for one another, the assisting of our sisters to appreciate the possibilities of life, and our aiding one another to become helpful and efficient daughters, wives, mothers, and members of society.

Her Excellency with much interest entered with us into the discussion of local questions viz:—The building and endowing of the Rat Portage General Hospital,—with suggestions as to making our womanly usefulness practicable; the advisability of sending capable, all-round women, the middle-aged or widows, to the settlements outlying Rat Portage, where upon general requirements they might obviate the necessity of doctors and of regularly trained nurses. The urgency of reading circles which would be instructive to all, and with self-sacrificing effort on the part of some would reach and benefit the very busy wives and mothers.

Her Excellency touched upon a world wide necessity, that of women doing more book reading, so as to become more companionable to their husbands.

When her Excellency referred to the approaching Jubilee Year of Her Majesty the Queen, and to the opportunities afforded thereby to the women of Rat Portage, as to those of other places, to testify their appreciation and gratitude by way of memorial, every heart beat in ready response to the suggestion, coming as it were from a true daughter of our gracious, motherly, noble-minded, Grand Old Queen!

Her Excellency, after bestowing upon us hours of weary mental and physical effort, with best wishes bade us "good-bye."

A. ROBINSON,

Cor. Sec. R. P. W. C.

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VICTORIA LOCAL COUNCIL.

The members of the Victoria Local Council during the month of November, looked eagerly forward to the promised visit of Her Excellency, Lady Aberdeen, anticipating fresh inspiration and instruction from our leader. Nor were we doomed to disappointment for the result far exceeded our most sanguine expectations.

It is almost needless to write that we received Her Excellency with great enthusiasm, and that the crowded audience that assembled listened with the deepest attention to the address given by Her Excellency.

Want of space forbids my giving the address in detail, but our local papers published the same in full. Sufficient to state that the work of the Women's Council was so clearly set forth that many who had heretofore had, no sympathy with the Women's Council were led to completely change their opinion, and declare that its aims and objects were noble and could not fail to prove a blessing to humanity. At the close of the meeting in moving and supporting a vote of thanks to Her Excellency, his Lordship Bishop Perrin, the Mayor and Rev. Dr. Campbell, paid glowing tribute to the energy and zeal of our noble and exalted leader. On the afternoon of the following day the Executive of Victoria Council together with representatives from Vancouver and Vernon—by the kind invitation of Miss Perrin, of Bishops Close—met Her Excellency in conference, as a result of which committees were appointed to secure suitable accommodation for the insane while awaiting medical advice, and one in regard to police matrons. Many valuable suggestions were made by Her Excellency, and much useful information given. All present felt that it had been "good to be there," and felt the elevating influence of Her Excellency's presence and example. At the close a very pleasant time was spent over the ever refreshing tea and coffee, hospitably dispensed by Miss Perrin (than whom Victoria Local Council does not possess a more energetic worker.) All felt that the hour of parting had come to soon, but we consoled ourselves in the secret recesses of our hearts, with the hope that this would not be Her Excellency's final visit to Victoria.

I had almost forgotten to mention what to us is one of the most important features of our work, viz:—The Friendly Help Association. In the morning of the first day Her Excellency visited the rooms of the Association—meeting with the ladies who have charge of this most useful and helpful part of our work. The rooms two in number are in the market building, and placed at one disposal by the Mayor of the city—who in every way renders assistance to the ladies. One of the members has drawn a plan of the city, indicating by colored lines the different districts appertaining to the lady visitors—these are regularly visited, and in this way all needy cases are brought under the notice of the Association.

Her Excellency evinced the deepest interest, in every detail, and in the course of the evening address spoke in the highest terms of commendation of the work of what is commonly known here as the Friendly Help.

BRITISH COLUMBIA REPORT OF FIRST PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE.

By a Vancouver Delegate.

In connection with the first Provincial Conference of the Council of Women of British Columbia held at Victoria on Friday and Saturday, December 27th and 28th, Her Excellency, the Countess of Aberdeen, president of the National Council of Women of Canada, addressed a largely attended public meeting, full particulars of which have already appeared in several local papers.

On Saturday afternoon at two o'clock the Conference was held at Bishop's Close. Her Excellency, Lady Aberdeen, being present an address of welcome on behalf of the Victoria Council was read by Mrs. Scaife, who was good enough to also include the delegates Mrs. Cochrane of Vernon and myself, in her kindly words of greeting, and regretted that other delegates were unable to attend.

On motion of Miss Perrin, Provincial Vice-President of the National Council, Her Excellency consented to preside. The meeting then opened in the usual way, with silent prayer. A letter was read by Mrs. Baker from Mrs. A. E. B. Davie expressing regret, that owing to illness she was unable to attend the Conference and asking the Women's Council to take steps in the matter of urging upon the authorities the necessity of pro-

viding proper accommodation for the insane, pending their removal to the Provincial Asylum. She also called attention to the importance of registering their names on the voter's list, and urged them to use their franchise in the coming civic elections.

The following resolution was moved and carried:—"That, whereas the National Council of Women of Canada at their last annual meeting decided to take steps in the matter of the treatment of the insane, and whereas the necessity of taking immediate action in this matter has been forcibly brought to our notice through recent events in this city; therefore be it resolved that this Provincial Conference ask the Local Councils of this Province to appoint sub-committees to draw up a petition to urge upon the proper authorities the necessity of establishing proper accommodations in the various parts of this Province for insane patients pending their removal to the lunatic asylum."

The following committee was appointed to ascertain the best mode of procedure and to draw up a petition; Mrs. Scaife, Miss Perrin and Mrs. Gordon Grant.

In compliance with Lady Aberdeen's request your delegate agreed to ask our Council to form a sub-committee to co-operate with the Victoria Committee, which it is hoped will be done to-day.

It was moved and carried that provision for incurables, and also for the destitute in our Province be also taken up as a Provincial work committee was formed to enquire into the best way to proceed.

It was moved and carried that the Provincial Conference petition the Provincial Legislature to empower the employing of police matrons throughout the Provincial jails, and urge upon the Local Councils the necessity of taking steps to secure the appointment of police matrons in police stations.

Several questions asked her Excellency were clearly explained by her. In regard to delegates voting at the annual meeting, she replied "each society can give its delegate discretionary power if they so choose." To question two replied, "resolutions or amendments cannot be altered at an annual meeting, but may be withdrawn." And to question three explained that, it was customary for societies organized by the Women's Council to become separate societies as soon as strong enough, and to affiliate with the Women's Council.

A very valuable resume of the work planned by the National Council was then given, the various subjects being fully explained and their importance made clear, all of which was listened to with intense interest.

At the request of Lady Aberdeen, Mrs. Day gave an account of the work accomplished by the reading circles in Victoria.

It was moved and carried that Mrs. Day be asked to act as Provincial Secretary for the reading circles of the Province.

A unanimous vote of thanks was given Her Excellency for her very great kindness in coming so far west to help us in our council work, which was feelingly responded to.

Miss Perrin then invited Her Excellency and the delegates present to partake of refreshments before adjourning; and although the time was far spent, almost all remained to enjoy half an hour's social intercourse.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

SARA A. McLAGAN,
Delegate to Provincial Council.

VANCOUVER,
Nov. 28, 1896.

