

MANY TOPICS DISCUSSED.

(Continued from page 2.)

The great work of preparing a hand book of Canadian women's work and organizations for the Paris exposition has been successfully completed to the satisfaction of the Dominion government, who entrusted it to us.

I need not enlarge here on the labor involved, further than to say that it has been great, that it has been carefully and unselfishly performed, and that as a result we owe a debt of gratitude to Mrs. Drummond and the ladies associated with her for the compilation of this very useful book, and to our secretary, Miss Wilson, for editing it.

That we have a secretary equal to a work of this kind is cause for congratulation, and shows how well an wisely we have made choice of that officer.

In the reports of local councils to be presented you will find that very general interest in all council work has been maintained, that many of the standing committees are still actively pursuing the objects for which they were formed, and that progress to report, are still standing to attention, watchful of the interests committed to them, and ready to act if occasion should arise, or call be made upon them.

There seems to be in many quarters a mistaken idea of the council and its province. A little thought would show that the council should not be expected to be always before the public, that its most important work must be done quietly through affiliated societies in suggesting lines of thought and securing unity and action.

It is a chain linking together the women workers in all parts of the Dominion, and its highest usefulness must be found in keeping, all in touch one with another, in lessening selfish localism and helping each to consider the other and to tend to others with sympathy and support we gratefully receive for ourselves.

You will be asked to give consideration to the place and work of the International Council of Women, an executive meeting of which has been held in Paris in June.

As one of the Federated National Societies we must seek to understand the aims and scope of this vast organization which is likely soon to encircle the world, and find our place in its activities, that we may not through ignorance or want of appreciation cause any discord in the harmony which is essential to its life.

This great society which seeks to link together the women of all countries for mutual benefit can only be held by mutual trust and confidence.

While we are firmly convinced that we believe to be right and true, and are careful of our own and our country's interests, we must be large hearted and considerate of the interests and feelings of other nations. Here, as in our own National Council, and even to a much greater degree, we are called upon to keep our motto ever before us, that no self-seeking or love of place and power may mar or endanger the beautiful structure we have to raise.

As you are aware, we have since last annual meeting had the great gratification of receiving the acceptance by Her Majesty, the Countess of Minto, of the position of honorary president of the National Council, and the assurance of her sympathy and hearty co-operation. She attended the last executive meeting in Ottawa, feeling the business with great interest, and her kindness in writing to Her Majesty, through the Princess Louise, on behalf of the Donkhor women is, I am sure, highly appreciated by every member of this council.

This being a National Council, embracing women of all ranks, of many nationalities and religious beliefs, it is right and fitting that we should have associated with us, as our honorary president, the representative of our beloved Sovereign, and I trust that we shall at all times accord to her the love and devotion which is her due.

Allow me before closing to offer a word of personal thanks to the officers and members of the National Council for their great and uniform kindness to myself and unwavering loyalty and devotion to the council.

I accepted the office of president with many misgivings, and knowing only too well my lack of qualification, feeling, too, that those in the East, with whom I was more intimately associated, I was a stranger, yet I have met on all hands the best kindness and forbearance, while our beloved and honored advisory president has done much to inspire me with hope and courage. I feared for a time that owing to ill-health I should be obliged to retire, but in compliance with the wishes of many members of the council I have allowed my renomination to stand.

I shall hope to discuss with you in executive meeting the prospects for the coming year and will now ask that we proceed to the business before us with humble and earnest purpose, seeking only in all our deliberations that peace and purity and truth may be advanced to the upbuilding and establishment of our national life, in righteousness.

Miss Perrin, on behalf of the Victoria Council, at the close of the address presented Lady Taylor with a bouquet of carnations.

Reports were read from the representatives of the various national standing committees on the matters with which they specially deal, the subjects reported upon being the checking of the circulation of criminal literature; the revising of the criminal code, and the care of the aged and infirm poor. In this latter connection the report from Vernon, B. C., was cheery.

This afternoon the delegates will be entertained by Mrs. James Dunsmuir at her home, where the visitors will reach by water.

(From Wednesday's Daily.)

At 3 o'clock yesterday the officers and delegates of the National Council of Women were invited to an excursion up the Gorge. Two steam launches and three large boats waited at the wharf to receive the party, and Mrs. Gordon Grant, in charge of the entertainment committee, was in attendance to arrange for their speedy dispatch.

Many were the remarks of admiration of our beautiful Gorge, and certainly it looked its very best as the boats passed by the many lovely residences, with their lawns and prettily laid out grounds.

At 4 o'clock the party landed at Bur-

leith, the beautiful house of Mr. James Dunsmuir, who had most kindly extended an invitation to the delegates visiting Victoria to become their guests. Mrs. Dunsmuir received each lady and welcomed one and all in a most gracious manner. Tea was provided under the trees, and the ladies spent a delightful hour wandering over the lovely grounds and listening to the music of the band.

At 5:30 the party again took to the boats, and the journey home was accomplished in half an hour, everyone agreeing that a most enjoyable afternoon had been spent.

TO-DAY'S SESSION.

The regular meeting of the Council began at 10 o'clock with silent prayer.

The following letter was read from Mr. Baynes Reed, superintendent of meteorological office:

"Will you kindly convey for me a very cordial invitation to the lady president and members of the National Council of Women of Canada to visit this office. Apart from any interest they may possibly take in our work, I can promise them a view of our beautiful city which I think they will appreciate."

Mr. Baynes Reed's invitation was accepted with pleasure.

An invitation to the Council to visit Vancouver was extended by Mrs. McLagan, and responded to by Lady Taylor.

The treasurer's annual report, read by the acting treasurer, Mrs. Coad, showed for the fiscal year just ending a total receipt of \$892.59, with a balance on hand of \$91.95.

Mrs. Willoughby Cummings in presenting the annual report of the National Press committee, corrected a false conception of the work of this committee as outlined in the morning paper. The object of the organization is shown in this resolution offered by Mrs. Willoughby Cummings and adopted by the meeting at each Local Council, that has not already done so, be urged to appoint a press-committee whose duty it shall be to see that correct reports of their meetings and other information concerning their work be furnished to the local newspapers, thus widening the interest and the influence of their Council; and that the convener of each press committee send to the National Press committee any items of Council news that may be of general interest, or that may be helpful if given a wider circulation than can be obtained by means of the local newspapers."

A report was read by Mrs. FitzGibbon on the work in connection with the relief of Donkhor women. The aid has been given on the sensible line of helping the women to help themselves. Loans of stoves, milk cows, looms and spinning wheels were freely made. The industrious Donkhor by their exquisite lace and needlework, produced with untiring industry and taste, have been able already to in a very large measure repay the sums lent.

Lady Taylor, in speaking to the report, gave most interesting information regarding these new settlers on the Canadian prairies. The Donkhor settlement is largely a community of women; of the 7,000 incomers, not more than 1,200 or 1,400 are men. Consequently the women feel the task of building the rude homes and of doing with their own hands all the rough work which usually falls to the hands of men. Believing that every worker should have opportunity of doing the best work of which such worker is capable, the council sent raw material to the women so that they might produce for sale the exquisite lace work for which Russia is celebrated. The result was most satisfactory to the women, who were not well enough off to purchase materials for themselves, and they cut the linen into many small squares, which they returned to the committee beautifully drawn, hemstitched, and embroidered, but hardly useful as saleable articles. The committee were then obliged to purchase lace and insertions and make the squares into sideboard cloths and five o'clock tea cloths, and their enterprise was rewarded by a fairly good sale.

The next step was to buy and arrange linen and towelling and some fine lawn squares for handkerchiefs, and to send these with materials for working to the colonists, asking Mlle. de Carous, a Russian lady interested in these people, to try and explain to them what was required. The result, as a whole, was most satisfactory, and the work has all been returned and much of it sold. But the committee hope to still further educate the women as to what is wanted in our market, by sending out an interpreter in the shape of an English lady who speaks Russian, to explain fully what each kind of work requires, and to help Mrs. FitzGibbon, the convener of the sub-committee, to organize certain work centres where a responsible woman will give out and receive the material as it is finished, and communicate directly with the committee. The women find that during the long winter days the enforced idleness is the greatest hardship they have to bear, and therefore it is hoped that the number of articles which are to be sent out this season will cover a larger ground than last season. Linen lace is knitted by the women, but until they can procure enough flax to spin their own thread the lace is not of sufficient value to warrant encouraging the women to knit it, as the thread sold in Canada is not pliable and soft enough to make the Russian lace so much in demand in England. Persecuted and cruelly oppressed by the Russian authorities on account of their religious opinions and refusal to bear arms, the Donkhorists, who, by the humanity of the Canadian government have found a sanctuary in Canada, are of excellent character, and all who have studied them testify to their eminent adaptability for Canadian citizenship.

A report was read from the standing Transvaal contingent assisting committee.

Then was brought up a question of vital interest to all women workers, the wished-for reform in the line of granting a half-holiday to all clerks employed in city stores. The question came before the council in the form of a petition presented by Mrs. Pooley and Mrs. Geo. Gillespie.

In the short discussion which followed Mrs. Willoughby Cummings gave some interesting information regarding the half-holiday movement in England, mentioning the active co-operation of the Duke of Westminster, through whose ef-

forts a bill on similar lines has successfully passed the British Houses. The matter of the local petition was referred to a committee with power to act.

(From Thursday's Daily.)

The Wednesday morning session of the National Council of Women closed with the voting of the various resolutions before that body. It was resolved:

That the first president of the council shall be advisory president for life, with a vote on the executive.

That a section be added to the constitution providing that conveners of standing committees be ex-officio members of the executive.

That the National Council should again urge the local councils to press the matter of providing some other accommodation for the insane than the goals, and also separate hospital rooms for the sole treatment of acute cases of mania soon likely to recover.

That the National Council recommend local councils to work for the promotion of public libraries in places where they do not already exist.

Incidentally the fact was brought out in the city of Ottawa there is no public library, nor is there one in Kingston.

The delegates adjourned promptly for lunch, which was prepared by the united Presbyterian churches.

After lunch the members of the council walked over to Bishopcove and were there photographed.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON.

At 2:30 Wednesday the Women's Art Association met, with Miss Reid, of Montreal, in the chair. Nothing is more important than the work of the association was read by Miss Wilkie, of Toronto. Miss Wilkie advocated the encouragement of handicrafts. There is in Canada a large field for art industries which might, if fostered, become important products of the country. Reference was made to the exhibition of the Women's Art Association held in Toronto during February and March of this year, where were exhibited examples of book-binding, book cover designs, leather work, pottery, lace making, wood carving, metal work and the more prosaic arts of weaving and rug making.

It is more important than that the artist and the public should be brought into close touch so that as Canadians we may know our own possibilities and encourage home talent.

A report of the Art Association of Vancouver City was read by Mrs. McLagan.

Leagues of School Art. The following paper by Miss Simms was read by Miss Reid, of Montreal:

The title, School Art Leagues, may, to many in this audience, be quite misleading, or, indeed, vague and indefinite. The purpose of this paper is to set before you, who are all workers in the length and breadth of this great land, the true significance of the name, in the earnest hope that you may be so interested in the novelty of the movement, and so impressed with its great moral and spiritual value to our country, that, from this meeting, there may spring up in every province of our Dominion Leagues of School Art.

The last half of this wonderful century has been glorified by a splendid group of writers—Tennyson, Browning, Carlyle, Ruskin, and Keats. It is more important than that the artist and the public should be brought into close touch so that as Canadians we may know our own possibilities and encourage home talent.

John Ruskin, brilliant, eloquent, passionate, dogmatic, ardent, was above all else a teacher. He gave to the world, in the fact that his works have been more widely read than those of any other British writer on art, and for the reason that he had the happy faculty of making men think on and comprehend art. His placed beauty, in its true sense, on a level with religion and the beauty of the mind of God, and so considered it an essential element in the life and industry of the world, as may be seen from the following most emphatic statement:

"So far from art being immoral in the ultimate position, it is being but art is moral; life without industry, art, and industry without art, brutality. The laws of life and the joy of beauty in the material world of God are as eternal and sacred parts of His creation as in the world of spirits, virtue, and in the world of intelligence, piety."

No wonder then, that these beliefs, John Ruskin in 1883 founded "Art for Schools" Associations in England.

The movement seized the popular fancy and spread rapidly through Germany and France. In 1893 a League of School Art was founded in Boston, though as early as 1878 the American Social Science Association did similar work in that city. The work appears to have been carried on with very vague ideas as to its ultimate purpose and with almost no systematic effort. It would be well for us, therefore, to give our country the work bids fair to flourish, to have definite ideas of its aims and purposes, and also a thorough and efficient organization. What then are the aims of Leagues of School Art? For lucidity, let us take this part of the subject up under two headings—the Material and the Spiritual—though these are so intimately related as to be almost inseparable.

First then, and briefly, the Material aspect. This divides itself naturally into three parts—school architecture, school room walls, school room decorations.

In architecture we desire to have for the outside of our school buildings the very best designs possible, making them a joy to the citizens and an educative power to the children. Inside, they are to be planned with every consideration for the health, comfort and convenience of the occupants. These three can only be attained by making it worth while for the best architects to compete. As a matter of fact in many towns, villages and townships, if not in cities, when a new school house is to be built, the nearest architect, or the one who is best acquainted with the school board, obtains the work and the result is too often an eyesore for generations.

Now the walls. This, to those who know the work, is believed to be the most important phase. Wall space must be of correct proportion and wall coloring harmonious and grateful to the eye. Whether one believes in the symbolism of proportion and color or not, the fact remains that incorrect proportions are irritating and inharmonious colors dis-

tractful, while correct and harmonious proportions and coloring are restful and strengthening. Better, well-proportioned wall spaces and harmonious coloring, without anything in the way of picture or poor wall decorations, than pictures on poor walls that nothing at all but blackboards and space.

Wall decorations may consist of pictures, plaster casts, statuary, pottery, bookshelves and books, cabinet and even mural decorations, each league following its own individuality in choice of subjects. School rooms, hitherto, have been too much like workshops—there is a danger that, in the enthusiasm of this work, they may be over decorated. Let the decorations be too few rather than too many, and always of the very best. Aim at what is beautiful because of its simplicity, not because of its elaborate ornateness or lavish cost. The maximum of artistic effect on the minimum expense is what is desired.

Just a glance at material results:

1. An increased desire for, and love of, cleanliness, reaching from the school to the home and from the home to the city streets and alleys.

2. A love for artistic simplicity which shall supplant the present desire for pretentious and vulgar decoration as seen in present produced, from the jug on the kitchen table to the elaborately carved furniture and tawdry hangings of the living room. This demand for simpler and better design will have a far-reaching commercial effect.

3. A desire for beauty in public buildings, statues and monuments—beauty in public parks and squares until we have beauty for the streets and for the school, then let it be man's purpose also.

Second, the Spiritual side of the work. Its purpose are at least three: 1. The cultivation of the aesthetic nature and the development of the imagination of the child, the strengthening of that penetrative power of the imagination that sees and grasps the subtler, higher and holier significance of art—its idealism and symbolism.

2. The satisfying of the love for the beautiful that exists in every child.

3. The stimulating in the child of an admiration and reverence for genius—God's highest type of creation.

The first of these purposes is the most important and the most difficult to reach, but experience proves that it is not beyond attainment even with school children.

There are three manifestations of the Divine—the true, the good and the beautiful. The true is taught in all science; the good, in all morals and ethics; but the beautiful in all forms of art is neglected or left to chance. Therefore, in pleading for the development of the imaginative powers of the child, we are pleading for a well balanced system of education—one that will equally develop all sides of the child's mind. Hitherto the rationalizing powers of the child's mind have been fully trained and the individual who recognizes his power to use these is rewarded with a sense of satisfaction and confidence in himself, but he whose imaginative qualities are alert, who can interpret Nature in all her varied moods, who can, with penetrative power, grasp the highest and best meaning of mighty works of pen or brush, who is refreshed by a spiritual beauty, while fully recognizing the great value of the cultivation of the rationalizing faculties, we desire to have by cultivation what the artist and the poet have by nature. We desire that the line of demarcation between the two and ours may disappear and that we may enter in and, if not take possession, at least roam at will.

The second point—the satisfying of the love of the beautiful—needs no discussion. A state of starvation has existed in this regard from university to primary school, we had almost said kindergarten.

Carlyle says: "The first spiritual want of a barbarous man is decoration." The remark provokes a smile, but much that is serious lies beneath it. All men are in a greater or less degree artists, either in their appreciation or execution, and an educational system should recognize this fact.

The present is confessedly materialistic—an age of science and machinery and more of the spiritual element is needed to keep the balance true. Man's physical nature is limited and easily satisfied, but there is no conceivable limit to man's growth in the direction of his spiritual nature, and the most elementary training of that nature, if good of its kind reaches out into infinite progression. Spiritual growth is promoted by spiritual contact, and one of the simplest ways of getting that contact is by surrounding the child early in life by what is beautiful in line, form, color, conception and idealization—for at no time, after mere infancy, is the child too young to feel the influence of this spiritual contact. The silent influence of good art is a potent force, and will of itself mould character by a process of unobtrusive absorption, but to enable a child who has never felt it before to feel joy in beauty or nature or art is to open to him a new heaven and a

new earth. It is to us a great blessing to have the great fountains of spiritual life, to make accessible one of the great resources of higher living, and to add immeasurable enjoyment and refreshment to life. So shall art fulfil its noblest service in serving the children and so shall be hastened the coming of the Kingdom of God among men.

Organization.—The first League of School Art was formed in Toronto in 1896 for the purpose of buying pictures, etc., for the Rosedale public school. Today this league believes that the work of an Art League cover everything connected with the school house and grounds.

The interested parents and residents of any school district co-operate with the teachers. The school board in Toronto has been most sympathetic and helpful. Each league consists of president, vice-president, treasurer, secretary, executive committee and members.

The twenty leagues of the city of Toronto are combined by a central executive composed of hon. president, president, three vice-presidents, two secretaries, treasurer and an executive composed of the president of each city league. The duties of this central executive are to keep track of the work done by the different leagues; to prevent waste of money by the purchase of duplicate pictures to arrange loans with other cities and towns, and to give inspiration to the leagues generally.

A very important feature of the organization is the advisory board. This is composed of four members of the Ontario Society of Artists, four architects, four laymen, four members of the Women's Art Association, the mayor of the city, the Minister of Education, the chairman of the public school board, the superintendent of buildings and the inspector of schools for the city, who is chairman. The offices of this board are as its name implies, to give advice to any league asking for it. They will suggest schemes of color or designs for decoration in wood; make suggestions with regard to choice of pictures, purchase pictures, etc., etc. They have rendered valuable assistance in the alteration of several school rooms.

This organization is proving itself very efficient and with twenty enthusiastic leagues working in the city of Toronto and several springing up in other towns and cities of the province, Ontario hopes soon to have a provincial organization.

Will not Victoria, in the extreme west, at once take steps to organize a League of School Art, and will not Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, in the extreme east, pledge themselves to take up the work on their return home? We look for a Dominion organization.

Enfranchisement Association. The Dominion Enfranchisement Association met at 3 p.m., with Miss Agnes Deans Cameron in the chair.

Miss Sanderson, of Toronto, gave a very interesting talk on the phase of the question of women's franchise in the Far East.

Mrs. Gordon Grant spoke in her usual crisp and lucid manner to the question, assuring the meeting that the question of women's suffrage will be taken up this year in the Provincial House, and concluded Mrs. Grant in her own incisive way, "We will continue to press the matter until our point is carried."

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This year's Northern salmon pack, interest in which is now the greater since the strike on the Fraser has practically suspended all fishing operations on the river, and is likely to result in a big shortage in the annual output, is not going to be nearly as large as it was last summer. In fact from present indications there will be little over a half pack on Rivers Inlet and the fish are not running any too plentifully at present, and here particularly will the shortage be felt, for last year the returns of the inlet were exceptionally good. Canneries on the Skeena will probably make a full pack, but the new cannery established on Princess Royal Island, near China Hat, is having a very poor run.

Robert Ker, of R. P. Rithet & Co., returned from the North on the steamer Queen City on Monday, and from information received from him the Times is enabled to publish a complete statement of the packs compiled from the latest reports received from the different canneries, as follows:

Rivers Inlet. (Up to Saturday night, 21st.)

Good Hope Cannery 5,500
Vancouver Packing Co. 4,000
Truswick Packing Co. 4,000
Wadham's Cannery 6,000
Wannock Cannery 7,000
B. C. Canning Co. 4,000
Skeena River. (Up till 20th Inst.)

Cannalham 7,000
Standard Cannery 4,500
Wallace Bros. Cannery 5,500
Bell-Irving Co., 2 canneries 22,000
B. C. Canning Co. 9,000
Turner, Beeton & Co. (to 14th) 5,000
Carlisle Canning Co. 5,000
Alert Bay.

Spencer 2,800
Namu Harbor. 4,500
Draney 4,500
Lowe Inlet Cannery 4,100
Princess Royal Island. 2,000
Princess Royal 2,000
Naas River. 4,000
Mill Bay 4,000
Naas Harbor 5,000

Children suffer from hives as a result of derangement of the digestive system and impure blood.

Mothers know that there is nothing better than Burdock Blood Bitters to correct stomach disorders, to purify the blood and cure all rashes and eruptions.

Mrs. J. Cannon Badger, Grey Co., Ont., writes: "My little boy was troubled with impure blood and hives came out on him. After using doctors' medicine and not getting any relief I decided to buy Burdock Blood Bitters, and after using one bottle the little fellow was completely cured of the hives and his health greatly improved."

CASTORIA For Infants and Children.

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Robbery The Motive

Indications of a Tussle Between Murdered Japanese and Thieves Up North.

Countrymen of Killed Offer a Reward for Arrest of Guilty Parties.

Further particulars of the murder of two Japs in the North, which was reported in yesterday's Times, are given by Robert Ker, who has just returned from a business trip to Rivers Inlet.

The scene of the murder was not Naas river as was stated, but Rivers Inlet, according to Mr. Ker, and the bodies of the two men had not been recovered until the time he had left for Victoria.

The crime seems to be enshrouded in mystery, and the regrettable lack of police work done thus far in the case is another argument in favor of the new cutter proposed for Dominion service on the Coast. The two missing men were recent arrivals from the Orient, and had been employed in one of R. P. Rithet & Co.'s canneries on the Inlet. On the night of July 12th they had gone out fishing with others and were not missed till next day. Then their boat was found, revealing in part the story of their tragic fate. The net, which they had been using, was cut in two, and both pieces were clinging to the boat. On either there were blood marks. Some of the tackle in the boat was red with blood stains, and on one or two articles there were patches of the hair of the unfortunate victims. All indicated a struggle. The men's net was evidently being interfered with, and in their attempt to drive-off what were presumably thieves, they were violently attacked and killed.

When next day their boat was found, the Indian fishermen became greatly excited and were about to go on strike, but they soon learned that it was not of their number the murdered belonged.

The Japanese, too, were in a state of great indignation on being made acquainted with the tragedy. They at once held a meeting, and after lengthy discussion decided to offer a reward of \$250 for the arrest and conviction of the murderers. At first they talked of making the reward \$500. All were much incensed over the crime, and were determined to make every effort to apprehend the guilty.

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