



Edited by THE COUNTESS OF ABERDEEN.

NOTES OF THE COUNCIL.

THE last month has brought us a large number of reports of annual meetings of Local Councils and we cannot hope to find space for the record of them all. Vancouver, Halifax, East Kootenay, Regina, Calgary, West Algoma, Brandon, Hamilton, Toronto and Montreal, all give us cheering accounts of the interest manifested. The net results of these meetings is to produce a feeling of great encouragement.

Many of the objects attempted have doubtless not yet been effected, but there has been a steady advance all along the line. Many subjects of real moment to the country have been taken into serious consideration and very materially advanced by the action of various Councils.

THERE is a disposition in some quarters to be discouraged if some needed reform is not brought about as soon as it is tackled. But such rapid results are not to be expected nor indeed desired. Beneficial changes in laws and customs are far more likely to be effectual and permanent if they are made after public thought and opinion has been allowed time to be educated and to refer and become convinced concerning their desirability. Frequent discussions, therefore, at our Executives and public meetings, distribution of literature and public criticism in the newspapers all do good, although they may seem to be hampering at the time.

THE inclusion of women on Boards of School Trustees, has been one of the subjects much in pre-eminence of late in our Council work. Victoria rejoices in having obtained the election of her second woman school trustee in the person of Mrs. Jenkins, who is correspondent for the Council with this Journal.

Vancouver is actively pursuing a campaign to get its charter amended so that women may sit on the Board. London lost her woman school trustee by one vote, and Halifax has not yet been able to attain to her desires.

Let us rejoice over what has been accomplished and expect still more next year.

IN regard to manual instruction, especially as regards the teaching of cooking and sewing, much has been done. To begin with, regulations concerning manual training in public schools have been adopted by the Ontario Government at the instance of the Minister of Education, the Hon. G. W. Ross, always a good friend of the National Council.

Then notice the letter from Mrs. Hoodless, written on our request, which we publish, and also the description of the work going on at the Ottawa School of Domestic Science, in the direction of training fully qualified teachers under Miss Galletly from Scotland, whose certificates and testimonials are of the highest order. This lady has had much experience in teaching in schools in Scotland, and knows exactly what is possible and what is required.

Local Councils who desire to have a teacher ready for such work in their own neighborhood, could not do better than send a student to Ottawa for training. Mrs. Edwards of the Young Women's Christian Association, will be delighted to give all information both concerning the school and also regarding lodging and boarding arrangements for such students.

A systematic grade of instruction in sewing is also being adopted in the Hamilton schools. We understand that Halifax is to get its much wished for School of Cookery, but we cannot at present give details of the arrangements.

THE Indian Famine Fund has received the sympathetic attention of several of our Councils, but in most cases the contributions have been given in through the General Fund which has received such noble-hearted help throughout Canada. The Winnipeg Local Council has however contributed \$500 in addition to the generous \$5,000 contribution from the city of Winnipeg.

BUT the item of Council news which overshadows all others is the adoption of a national scheme for commemorating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, which on being recommended to the country has been received with a wonderful amount of favorable unanimity. It has been submitted to the Local Councils, some of whom have already reported enthusiastically in its favor, but all of whom promise their support. It was launched officially at a meeting held at Ottawa on February 10th, when a resolution was unanimously passed on the motion of the Premier that a fund be opened for the establishment of a "Victorian Order of Home Helpers." The main features of the proposed order are explained in a letter which appears in another part of the Journal.

VERY early this year it became manifest to the officers of the National Council of Women that the women of this country were not going to be

behind hand in the desire to commemorate in a manner worthy of our Queen, this true year of Jubilee for the British Empire. It is difficult to realize all that the Victorian era has meant to the empire—indeed to the world—but assuredly no section of Her Majesty's subjects have more cause to sing the praises of this glorious epoch than the members of Her Majesty's own sex.

THE new possibilities and opportunities which have opened out before women's lives during the Queen's reign are infinite, and for many of them we are indebted to the direct influence of our Sovereign herself, who in her own person also has been able to prove to the world that a woman can pursue higher studies and have an intimate knowledge and grasp of the affairs of state whilst at the same time being a model of all womanly, wifely and motherly virtues and charm. And so it is with heart and voice that her daughters all over her vast domains rise up to-day to hail her as blessed, and seek to do something in her honor which will make their descendants realize how it was that Queen Victoria was not only revered as Queen and Empress but beloved as a mother.

AND it was doubtless with a feeling of gratification that the National Council found itself appealed to for guidance by women from all parts of the country as to what form this national effort should take.

We had two main objects to keep in view. We had to consider (1) what form of commemoration would most gratify Her Majesty personally and act as the fittest expression of her Canadian daughters' loving and grateful loyalty. (2) How we could most widely and most vividly found a memorial of the Queen's loving care and interest in the welfare of her subjects but especially of the poor and suffering, which would appeal to the hearts of all the dwellers in the Dominion.

WE believe that both of these objects are met by our scheme, and it therefore only remains for us to go about the collection of the fund. If it is to do honor to the Queen and form a lasting memorial of her, every one of her Canadian subjects should contribute, even though be only a very small sum, and this should be the aim steadily kept in view before all our collectors:—a universal collection in honor of the Queen to carry out a purpose which will both please her and bring comfort and consolation to thousands of sufferers in this our own country!

THERE have been some changes of officers made at these annual meetings. To the regret of all, Mrs. Drummond has obeyed the three year rule of office of the Montreal Council, and has retired from an office which she filled with such exceptional ability and earnestness. She was elected first past president, and it is good to know that neither the Local nor National Council will be deprived of her services. Mrs. Cox was elected as her successor.

Lady Reid having retired from the Presidency of the Vancouver Council on account of absence and want of health, her resignation and that of her daughter, Miss Geraldine Reid, were regretfully accepted. Mrs. Beecher, our kind and able