THE WESTERN HOME MONTHLY

C.W.P.C.

NOVEMBER, 1920



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## ments of daily and weekly newspapers but writers in magazines, authors of books, artistic in black and white and women owning and editing their own newspapers. It is supposed to meet triennially, but owing to the war the

This body which in-

cludes not only women

writers in all depart-

The Woman's Quiet Hour

By E. Cora Hind

meeting of 1916 was postponed and the meeting of 1919 was again postponed because the railways were busy bringing home the troops and their dependents. Seven years is a long time and the seven years that intervened between the meeting of the C.W.P.C. in Edmonton in the glorious June of 1913 and the meeting in Montreal in the golden autumn of 1920 were such eventful years that in many ways they represented a much longer period.

Women's Press Club has held a convention in Montreal, the first since 1913.

At the triennial meeting in Toronto in 1910 Sir John Willison, addressing the club, stated his belief that in ten years there would cease to be any sex in journalism and that women and men would take up the line of newspaper or magazine work for which they were best adapted without the question of sex being raised.

At the meeting in Montreal it seemed that this prophecy was pretty literally fulfilled for the women gathered there were doing practically every line of newspaper work excepting police court reporting, and though no Canadian woman was known to be doing that end of newspaper work it was intimated that the sisters of the pen in the United States had invaded even that position so long regarded as the sole prerogative of the male reporter.

The war had opened many closed doors and apparently the women had made good to such an extent that even the return of the men from overseas had not been followed by the closing of any of these doors.

The very beginnings of the C.W.P.C. are only 17 years old, yet at that time the 16 newspaper women who were taken by the C.P.R. to the World Exposition at St. Louis, and who formed the nucleus of the club on their return trip, were all employed on social pages or the lighter class of "Womens'" pages. (In passing let me say that the woman journalist of to-day who speaks some-what scornfully of the society page, would do well to bear in mind that the women who first took up this line of work opened the newspaper door to the whole sisterhood of women who have since moved on to other and, admittedly, more important fields.) At Montreal the writer for ditoria side by side with the woman who owns is being done in connection with the

During the past month the Canadian greetings to the book reviewers and literary critics and the successful scenario writer exchanged views with the editor of Social Service publications, The report of the historian was one of which no organization of journalists in any country need feel ashamed and it probably did not contain one-third of the activities of the members during the seven years since the last meeting. The club has been well represented overseas in war work as well as having a record of an enormous amount of war work at home.

The meeting was not all work and no play, the railways vied with one another to give the members a good time after the work had been done. The C.P.R. planned and carried through delightful trip to the ancient city 8 of Quebec and its surroundings, a trip arranged to give pleasure and convey instruction at the same time.

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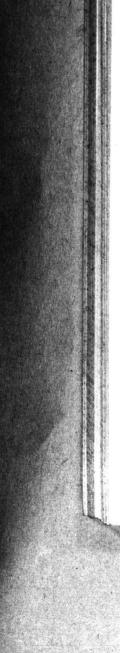
Some of the members of the club had been born on the western prairies and had never previously seen the east, while to all this chance to see something of the historic spots connected with the very beginnings of Canada was an opportunity for both pleasure and profit.

One of the outstanding features of the occasion was, however, the recognition by the Dominion Government of

the importance of this club. In the past Dominion civic and provincial Government governments, more particularly those of

Western Canada, have extended hospitality and recognition to the C.W.P.C. but Saturday, October 9, 1920, was the first official recognition of the club by the Dominion Government when for one whole day they were the guests of the Hon. Dr. Tolmie, minister of agriculture, and his staff.

Agriculture being the basic industry of Canada it was possibly most fitting that that section of the Government should be hosts on the occasion, but the western members of the C.W.P.C. felt especially proud of the fact that a western minister was the first member of the government to extend an invitation to the club to visit the capital city. The day was carefully planned to give the guests a good time and also to show them something of the vast labors for the improvement of agriculture which the Government of Canada is making. The value of this day at Ottawa was at least twofold, it gave the women journalists a better grasp of things at Ottawa and it gave the officials of the department of Agriculture a better idea of the personnel of the women who "taking pen in hand" can do much, very much to acquaint the readers of



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