

# Calgary Women's Enterprise

By E. M. HEYDON

WHILE the women of Western Canada are among the most progressive and democratic in the Dominion, there is in the West not quite as much enthusiasm as one might expect for many of the movements which command the attention and interests of the women of the older provinces. It is a matter of record that the executives of the Woman's Canadian Clubs of both Calgary and Winnipeg disapproved of the idea of inviting Miss Christabel Pankhurst to address these clubs when the daughter of the famous suffragette, now speaking in several Western cities, proposed a Canadian tour last spring. Several members of the Calgary body denounced her strenuously and refused to shoulder the responsibility of exposing the club to her influence for a single hour. A satisfactory conclusion was reached only when the worried president took her troubles before a general meeting and received a desultory expression of approval of the "suffragette person." The National Council of Women has taken steps



MRS. PINKMAN  
Regent of the Colonial Macleod Chapter Daughters of the Empire.

organizations in the smaller towns were induced to take the matter up, and to secure thousands of signatures to petitions for presentation to the legislature. The Alberta Medical Association was ap-

tion of houses, the wrapping of bread, the bottling of all milk delivered in the city and the covering of all foodstuffs in shops and stores.

Recently, a deputation presented to Premier Sifton the petitions of the women, with the result that a grant equal to one-fourth of the cost of the building was promised, together with a grant of 35 cents per day, per patient, after the institution is established.

Mrs. C. A. Stuart, wife of Mr. Justice Stuart, is the president of the club; Mrs. W. Carson, one of the "old-timers" in the community, the convener of the sanitarium committee, and Mrs. Harold Riley, wife of the member of the legislature for Gleichen, the secretary of the committee.

In addition to this work, the club has entertained many persons of note who were visiting in the city, and has benefited by the addresses of many brilliant men and women.

The Daughters of the Empire have the infant Cadet Corps and the Boy Scouts under their wing



MRS. C. A. STEWART  
President Woman's Canadian Club, Calgary.

to secure a revision of the homestead laws in the Western provinces, and the women of Edmonton, last year, secured a very small measure of reform in the matter of dower rights legislation in Alberta; but beyond these affairs, women meddle very little in the politics of the country, and there is no sign of live interest in matters of suffrage.

This lack of enthusiasm for the feminist movement is probably the result of conditions which will have disappeared in a few years. Just now, the Western woman has her hands full with the work of home-building and of housing and feeding people. The prime necessity of bed and board absorbs her immediate attention to the exclusion of a serious consideration of abstract "rights."

There is, however, a remarkable esprit de corps in those organizations which necessity has called into being. The popular support of the women of Calgary, Alberta, which is the second city west of Toronto, in the matter of population and commercial importance, is divided between a few such organizations as the W. C. T. U., the Y. W. C. A., the Woman's Canadian Club, and the Daughters of the Empire; and the success of these has been remarkable.

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THE Woman's Canadian Club was organized in January, 1911, with a membership of three hundred and fifty, which has since increased to nearly five hundred. A lively campaign for a tuberculosis sanitarium in the province, closed on December 22nd, with the support of the Provincial Legislature pledged, strong anti-tuberculosis societies organized in the two leading cities, Calgary and Edmonton, and stringent health by-laws passed by the Calgary city council. The sanitarium committee was not appointed until March, but the campaign was energetic. Over one hundred women's



MRS. THOMAS UNDERWOOD  
President of the Y.W.C.A., Calgary.

proached and responded with a grant of \$3,000 in money.

A petition to the city council in July resulted in the passing of by-laws providing for the disinfection



MRS. ANDREWS  
President Calgary Branch of Alberta Woman's Association.



MRS. GEO. K. KIRBY  
Honorary President Y.W.C.A., Calgary.

and have contributed over one thousand dollars to the support of these this year.

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THE W. C. T. U. is a strong organization in the province, although the local band is comparatively weak; but its influence is hampered by the continual influx of foreign voters. It is the first organization to announce itself in favour of woman's suffrage. The Calgary branch has recently opened a day nursery in the city and supports two travellers' aid deaconesses.

Recently a branch of the Alberta Woman's Association was organized to promote the higher education of women and to supplement the work of the various university boards by providing high school and university scholarships. Only university graduates and the wives of members of the senates of universities are eligible for membership.

The crowning achievement of the women of Calgary is the recently opened Y. W. C. A. building. This beautiful building, which is sumptuously furnished and one of the best equipped in the Dominion, is the meeting place of all classes of women in truly democratic social intercourse. It represents the dauntless energy of half a dozen women. In the year 1907, a committee of six, of which Mrs. G. W. Kerby, wife of the pastor of Central Methodist Church (now principal of Mount Royal College), was the leading spirit, brought the "Y" into being in the face of almost insurmountable obstacles. Calgary was not half as populous then, as now, and hundreds of homeless women were poorly accommodated, in fact the churches were the only public meeting places for women.

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ALTHOUGH the Y. M. C. A. had been accorded adequate support, the proposed Y. W. C. A. did not meet with sympathy from the men, who