



REPORTS OF CANADIAN LOCAL COUNCILS.

The annual convention of the Canadian National Council of Women will be held in Montreal, May 12 to 16. This gathering increases in importance each year, since each successive meeting becomes more representative of Canadian women in every walk of life and every organisation. Also the purpose of the Council is becoming each year better understood.

Many important topics will be discussed in the May meeting—matters of large interest to women both at home and in public; while questions affecting the conditions and status of womanhood will be dealt with by clever women speakers.

It is hoped that as many Canadian women as possible will endeavour to be present at the annual gathering.

TORONTO.

The council has this month sustained a great loss in the death the hon. vice-president, Lady Smith.

Several special meetings of the council have been called in connection with the approaching annual meeting of the National Council, in Montreal, in May; at which the resolution proposed by the local councils and nationally organized societies throughout Canada, were carefully considered.

Miss Hart, of the Young Ladies' Catholic Literary Society, will go to Montreal from this council to read a paper on "How Canadian Women Can Promote Canadian Literature."

The Guild of St. Agatha, of St. George's Church, has federated with the council.

Miss Elliott's name having come up some time previously as applicant for the position of inspector of asylums, gaols, etc., her application was endorsed by the following resolution: "The Toronto Local Council of Women, realising the great ability that Miss Elliott has for the faithful carrying out of the work required from the woman inspector of asylums, gaols, etc., and all places where women are confined, do most heartily unite in asking for her appointment to the above office."

Toronto Local Council has nominated a number of ladies as delegates to attend the N. C. annual meeting.

The Toronto Council is much interested in the proposed reforms of the Prisoners' Aid Society, and have been investigating, with the result that the following resolutions were passed:—

"That, in consideration of the great evil likely to result to first offenders and comparatively innocent persons from association with hardened criminals, the T. L. C. do earnestly and respectfully urge the City Council to provide such separate accommodation for the different classes of prisoners as will insure their being unable to communicate with one another during the period they are awaiting trial, and that the following ladies be delegates to write with the delegates from the Prisoners' Aid Association to wait upon the City Council and urge speedy action—Mrs. Willoughby Cummings, Mrs. George Dickson, Mrs. Geo. Kerr, Mrs. Hodgins."

"That the T. L. C., in its most hearty sympathy with the idea of the Cottage Homes for both boys and girls instead of the large institutions at present existing, believing that the system is the most successful in the training of the children."

"That the T. L. C., realising the great benefit not only to society at large but more particularly to the unfortunate inebriates and vagrants, do most heartily co-operate with the Prisoners' Aid Society in their efforts to establish an asylum for inebriates, and a home for vagrants."

M. E. DIGNAM, Rec. Secy.

275 George St.

PORT ARTHUR.

This progressive council of women, numbering about eight hundred, was organized two years ago by Her Excellency the Countess of Aberdeen. Mrs. Frank Gibbs, Port Arthur, was elected president, and still continues in that capacity to direct and lead its various movements and ventures.

Port Arthur was the first town in the Dominion of Canada to form a local council in affiliation with the National Council of Women, the movement having previously been confined to the cities; also the first to found a Woman's Exchange in connection with the same. This council has also other eminent successes and enterprises to report. It inaugurated the opening of the Woman's Exchange with an art exhibition, which proved financially remunerative beyond expectation, as well as aesthetically gratify-

ing. From its inception this council has aimed to promote and cultivate the literary taste of its members by having in connection with nearly all its meetings a literary hour, for which is provided readings, lectures, papers for discussion, music, etc. At present the different societies of which the council is composed are engaged in collecting a fund for the Armenians.

Lady Aberdeen has graciously made three visits to Port Arthur in the interests of this useful institution, conferring with its executive and speaking at public meetings to explain the need for such an association and its special objects and aims. The achievements of the council are positive proofs that her efforts have not been fruitless.

The regular sustaining power, the constant inspiration, the fountain of enthusiasm and impelling energy which prosper this council are chiefly derived from its able president, Mrs. Gibbs, who devotes freely time, talent and money to the purposes it involves, which are so dearly cherished in her heart and largely elaborated in the activities of her life.

The members are pleased and ready to acknowledge, individually and collectively, the benefits directly and indirectly, socially and generally, which they have experienced in consequence of this bond of sodality. It delights them to give a detailed account of their cooking school, the programmes of their weekly meetings, etc., when suitable opportunity occurs, but they feel they cannot conscientiously let any occasion pass unimproved when they may advise the women of other towns and cities to form a council, in view of the conveniences it affords to facilitate all works of reform and philanthropy.

HALIFAX.

This being the first time the Halifax Local Council has sent a report to your journal, I may mention that our council consists of 21 federated societies, eight annual patrons and five individual members. The following officers were elected at our annual meeting on January 29th:—President, Mrs. Chas. Archibald; vice-presidents, Hon. Mrs. Montgomery-Moore, Mrs. Fuller, Mrs. Richey, Mrs. Mackintosh, Miss O'Brien and Miss Johnstone; treasurer, Mrs. J. W. Longley; recording secretary, Miss Creighton; corresponding secretary, Miss Henry.

We had a most successful annual meeting; our business meeting for receiving reports of federated societies, reports of secretaries and treasurer, consideration of resolutions brought before the council, and election of officers, being held in the afternoon, and a public meeting in the evening, at which we were honoured by the presence on the platform of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, General Montgomery-Moore, His Grace the Archbishop, His Lordship the Bishop of Nova Scotia, Rev. Principal Pollock, Rev. Dr. Gordon, and other prominent citizens. Interesting and suggestive papers were read, the subjects being, "Domestic Science," "Art Education in the Province," and on the question, "How Can this Council Help the Children of Halifax?"

Our council has passed a resolution asking for legislation towards keeping children and young girls off the streets after 9 p.m., and we hope that our efforts may be successful. We have also asked for the appointment of women on the school boards. So far, that request has not been granted, but as a result of a similar request from the Yarmouth Council, a woman (the president of their council) has been appointed there, so we hope that soon we may also be successful. We have succeeded in getting much better accommodation at the police station for female (and also for male) prisoners; also in having a new matron appointed for the immigrant shed, the former one having been most unfit for the position. At our annual meeting it was suggested that our council should send out an appeal to the women of Nova Scotia asking for a minimum subscription of five cents from every woman and girl in the province in aid of the Armenians. This was done, with the gratifying result that our treasurer received in a few weeks the sum of \$2,341, and more is coming in. This money has been sent to Lady Henry Somerset, to be forwarded by her to Miss Clara Barton, at present working in Armenia.

We have a quarterly meeting at the end of April, at which a young lawyer is to address the council and give us information on the subject of the circulation of impure and deteriorating literature a matter he has been much interested in lately and which local councils have been asked to inquire into.

There has been a great deal of interest aroused in the work of our council since our annual meeting, and we all feel very much encouraged by the success we have already attained.

L. HENRY, Cor. Sec. H. L. C.

QUEBEC.

The second annual meeting of the Quebec Local Council of Women took place at the Chateau Frontenac on Wednesday the 24th March at 3.30 p. m. Both in point of attendance and interest, the

meeting was most successful; some three hundred ladies being present. Her Excellency the Countess of Aberdeen presided. His Honour Lieut.-Governor Chapleau and Madame Chapleau, honorary president for the Province of Quebec; Sir Henry Joly de Lotbiniere, Abbe Paquet, representing Archbishop Begin; Lady Casault, president Quebec Local Council, and members of its Executive sat on the right and left of Her Excellency. His Lordship Archbishop Dunn and Rev. Mr. Love of St. Andrew's Church were prevented from being present by absence from Quebec.

The meeting opened with silent prayer. The annual report was then read by the corresponding secretary.

It stated that the reform in the laws of the prison of the district, recommended by the Quebec Local Council last year, had accomplished most satisfactory results.

This year the work of the council will be to secure the training of young girls from the country as domestic servants. For this purpose the Franciscan Nuns and the Women's Christian Association will start classes as soon as possible. As a practical effort to suppress the spread of immoral literature, the Q. L. C. has formed reading circles, hoping to encourage good, healthy reading in our midst.

Interesting reports from twelve affiliated societies followed, and an admirable paper by Miss Stuart, French secretary of the Q. L. C.

Her Excellency then delivered an eloquent address, which was listened to with deep attention. It inspired all with a desire as members of the council, if true to its principles, to make a still greater effort to extend the Golden Rule to Society, Custom and Law.

After short speeches from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor and other gentlemen present, it was moved by Lady Casault, seconded by Mrs. Hunter Dunn:—

"That the Quebec Local Council fully recognizes that it owes its existence, and such measure of success as it has attained, chiefly to the unfailing interest and encouragement received from Her Excellency the Countess of Aberdeen, and that it wishes to express its grateful appreciation of her kindness in undertaking a tedious journey in winter for the sole purpose of being present at its annual meeting." This resolution was carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6.30.

VICTORIA, B. C.

The Local Council of Victoria and Vancouver Island holds its regular meetings every second Monday in the month.

The meeting in March was postponed till the 17th on account of important papers having been received from the National Council of Women. These papers, namely, the Preliminary Agenda for the approaching annual meeting of the National Council of Women of Canada, and the nomination papers for the same, were read at this meeting and copies of the resolutions were sent to the various affiliated societies to enable them to discuss them and propose any amendments, if desired, prior to attending a special general meeting called for March 30th, at which the nomination papers were adopted as a whole and the agenda also with the exception of a few amendments. The papers were then returned as desired to Her Excellency the Countess of Aberdeen, president of the National Council of Women of Canada. The Local Council will hold its last regular meeting on April 13th.

EDITH HILDA SCAIFE, Cor. Sec.

WINNIPEG.

WOMAN'S ARTS ASSOCIATION.

The ceramic exhibition held here recently was a great success. Three moderately sized rooms were thrown open, one of which was used for serving tea; as the weather was cold this beverage was very acceptable. The rooms looked very pretty with the dainty china tastefully arranged, some hanging on the walls, some lying on odd-shaped tables and the remainder in pretty cabinets. The Toronto china received a great deal of praise and was certainly very artistic. Two lovely pictures by Jules Brety were very kindly loaned for the exhibition.

The Very Rev. Canon O'Meara delivered a very interesting and instructive lecture a few evenings ago; the weather being disagreeable, kept a large number away. Several other gentlemen have kindly offered to lecture for us whenever we wish them to do so.

A class of ladies painting on china meet every Friday morning, when Mrs. Hamilton (a teacher here) very kindly helps all with her suggestions or a touch with her brush. Mrs. Braedy, a well-known artist here, is also very good to the association, and comes in to criticise and give encouragement to those working in oils.

The association is now better known and we hope for great things in future days.

GERTRUDE C. DREWRY, Sec.