

to make use of that privilege, shows a large amount of the block-head in his constitution. (Laughter.) I have been told this afternoon by a distinguished friend (whom I am glad to see among the audience) that in the Province of Quebec you will find that the farmers especially, who constitute a large portion of the community in that province, have a very excellent habit in the matter of their earnings; I am told that the custom of many of the *habitants* is, not to button up their pockets and dole out some small pittance in response to the request of the wife, but to place the whole amount in the wife's hands. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) That system I believe has excellent results. At any rate, I am under the impression that if you went into the Province of Quebec with an idea of finding farms which the owners would be very glad to get rid of, or farms with no owner at all, you would have a very fruitless search; but that on the other hand, if a farm is to be sold there are a large number of offerers for it; perhaps for this reason among others, that the farmers of Quebec have often placed their earnings in the prudent hands of their wives. (Laughter.) I make this digression because I think it is generally to be found that women are not apt to squander when a certain amount of responsibility is placed upon them. (Hear, hear.) Of course we have all heard about dressmakers' bills, which are said to be a sore trial to the husbands (laughter), but perhaps that was where the husband does not encourage the wife to take him into her confidence, and therefore arrangements have had to be made by hook or by crook. (Laughter.) At any rate, so far as we have had experience of the Women's Council we must observe that they have not been rash or inconsiderate in this respect. Perhaps somebody may ask me if I have tried this plan with regard to my earnings in the same manner. (Laughter.) Well, I may safely say that whenever I have attempted that process I have had no reason to regret it. (Laughter.)

Her Excellency has given us some specimens of the work of the Council in a direct sense, but its indirect influence is perhaps of still more value and importance. It is sometimes said that this movement is vague. Perhaps in one sense that is a good thing, because if it was only for one or two different purposes and objects it might be open to the objection that is sometimes made, that we have already too many societies, and do not want any addition to the number. In one sense this is a new society; but in another it is not, because it tends to the consolidation of societies which are already in existence, and to the prevention of over-lapping and so forth. If a new statute is passed for the codification of other statutes, it is not over-burdening the statute-book with new legislation, but on the other hand lightening it, because it is simplifying what has to be done, and tending to greater efficiency and saving of time. This movement, this agency, tends to centralize and consolidate the energies of those who have energies to exercise, and to band together the best workers for the best work; and that we must recognize as a work of value. (Cheers.)