

Edgar in offering a cordial welcome in the name of the women of Canada to you, the delegates from over seas, and especially to Lady Aberdeen, our admirable and invaluable President of the International Council, on this, the occasion of your first official visit to the Dominion.

"You come at a time when the greatness of our Canadian destiny is assured to us, and yet at a time when the lines of our national development are not so stereotyped as to prevent our adoption of the best methods of social organization, as may be suggested by the experience of other countries.

"We realize that it is in our power, if we have sufficient knowledge and sufficient heart to apply that knowledge, to eliminate from the life of the Dominion much of the preventable waste, disease and death which together constitute such an appalling annual loss, exceeding indeed that sustained by countries liable to be engaged in actual warfare.

"No less do we feel that the future happiness of our people largely depends on the degree in which the softening influences of art and culture enter into and illumine their lives, and we are glad to be given this opportunity of learning from our visitors what methods of nature study and manual training we should adopt, with a view of acquiring for our people that love of beauty and handicraft dexterity which will enable them to make their homes, both in the rural districts and in the towns, more and more the respective centres of enlightened happiness and competing art and beauty."

Her Excellency, the Countess of Aberdeen, in her address tendered sincere thanks on behalf of the International Council of Women to the officers and members of the National Council of Women of Canada for all they had done, as well as to all the others who took part in preparing the elaborate welcome to this city. She also thanked Her Excellency, the Countess Grey, for the kind spirit of her address, and for the gracious hospitality extended at Government House, Ottawa, during the previous week to the over-seas delegates and visitors.

Continuing, Her Excellency spoke of the Quinquennial Meetings in London, Eng., and in Berlin, and added:—

"Now it comes to Canada's turn. There were many who said it would be impossible to hold a Congress here. There would be no suitable buildings and the Atlantic Ocean lay between, and so forth. I think this morning's gathering and the beautiful building we are in is the best answer to these doubters."

She returned thanks to the Conveners and Committees of the nine sections for the "feast of fat things" placed before them in the Congress programme.

Adjournment was then made to the various rooms where the nine Sections of the Congress were held.