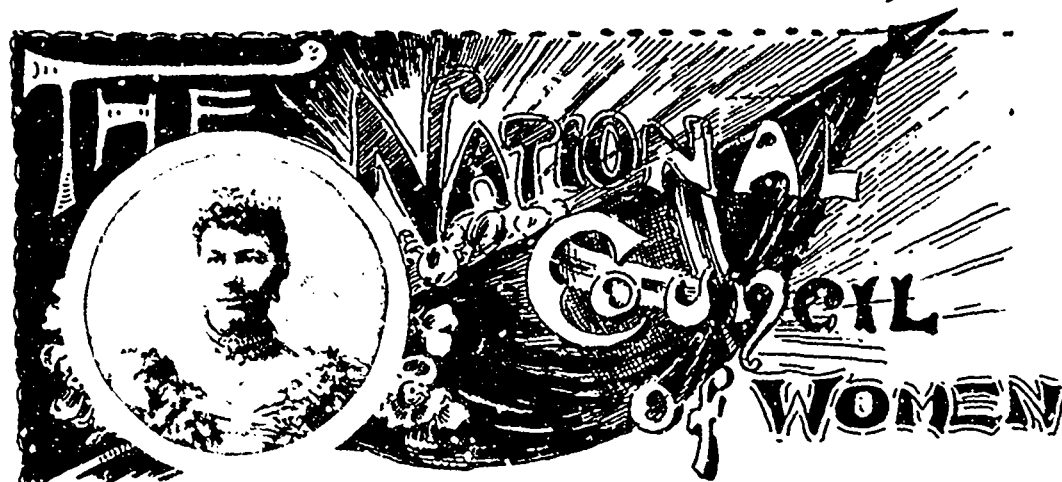




* * Edited by THE COUNTESS OF ABERDEEN * * *

NOTES OF THE COUNCIL.

THE EXECUTIVE Committee of the National Council of Women opened their year's work with an important meeting at Ottawa on January 15th. Official communications will be addressed to the Presidents of Local Councils and National Societies concerning the conclusion arrived at. In addition to this, those Councils who could not be personally represented will receive a description of the meeting from the ladies who kindly undertook to act as their substitutes. The following is a list of the ladies who were present:

Her Excellency the Countess of Aberdeen, President; Madame Laurier, Lady Thompson, Vice-Presidents; Lady Caron, Madame Forget, Provincial Vice-Presidents; Mrs. Willoughby Cummings, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. H. C. Scott, Recording Secretary; Mrs. Hoodless, Treasurer.

Local Councils.—Toronto, Miss Mowat; Hamilton, Mrs. Sanford; Montreal, Mrs. Geo. Drummond; Ottawa, Lady Ritchie; London, Mrs. S. E. Dawson; Winnipeg, Mrs. Bronson; Quebec, Lady Joly de Lotbiniere; Kingston, Mrs. Asa Gordon; St. John, Mrs. Blair. Halifax, Mrs. or Miss Borden; Yarmouth, Mrs. Thorburn, West Algoma, Mrs. Robertson; Victoria, Miss Scott; Vancouver, Mrs. Major; East Kootenay, Mrs. Griffin; Regina, Mrs. Maclean; Vernon, Mrs. Hewett; Calgary, Mrs. R. W. Scott; Brandon, Mrs. Sifton; Rat Portage, Mrs. F. Macdougall.

Nationally Organized Societies.—Women's Art Association, Mrs. Saunders; Girls' Friendly Society of Canada, Mrs. Tilton; Women's Enfranchisement Association, Mrs. O. C. Edwards; Dominion Order of the King's Daughters, Mrs. Ami; The Aberdeen Association, Mrs. Lake (morning), Miss Scarth (afternoon).

Miss Mowat was unfortunately prevented from being present to represent Toronto by indisposition and at the last moment Mrs. Blair, who was to have represented St. John, was also called away. Mrs. Saunders, of the Art Association, was also unavoidably detained. It will be noticed that on this occasion there was in most cases a local connection between the substitutes and the districts they represented, which was found to be a very advantageous circumstance. This is one of the reasons which disposes the majority of the Executive to think that in future the meetings of the Executive had better take place at Ottawa, where ladies having local connections with all parts of the Dominion can be more easily found than elsewhere.

THREE decisions of moment were arrived at, and the first of these was embodied in a resolution appointing a Sub-Committee to consider the best plan of worthily commemorating the completion of the sixtieth year of Her Majesty's reign. It was unanimously decided that an address should be prepared for presentation to the Queen, but, in addition to this, it was felt that it would be in consonance with the expressed wishes of Her Majesty, if this memorable year could be associated with the inauguration of an order of trained devoted women, who should be specially prepared for ministering to the needs of the sick and suffering in the isolated and sparsely settled districts of Canada. Much careful consideration will be needed to evolve a practical plan to meet the object in view, and the Local Councils will be asked to give their most earnest attention to the subject. All are agreed that the need for some such scheme is great; and if it can be carried out in connection with the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee, it would not fittingly be remembered as one more gracious influence of blessing emanating from the beneficent reign of Queen Victoria.

THE Sub-Committee to consider the subject consists of the officers (ex-officio) and of Mrs. Drummond, Madame Forget (Regina), Mrs. Bronson, Lady Ritchie, Mrs. Sifton.

THE second resolution was arrived at after reading a letter of Sir Henri Joly de Lotbiniere to the Executive representing the terrible sufferings of our fellow-subjects in India from famine and plague, and asking if the National Council of Women of Canada would not bear its part in endeavoring to collect funds to relieve the distress arising from failure of crops, from which failure the people of Canada have in some measure profited.

It was resolved to ask Local Councils to request ministers of all denominations to set apart a collection for this object, and in addition to issue an appeal through the newspapers, if the Local Councils approve of this course.

THE third decision was the convening of a Conference of the Local Councils of Ontario, to consider the advisability of petitioning the Provincial Government to make certain amendments to the Act regulating shop employees, which will extend to workers in shops and houses of protection given to factory-workers. A report on the subject was submitted by the Toronto Local Council to the Executive, dealing with various alterations in the law which were recommended, and asking for a Con-

ference of the Local Councils of Ontario on as early a date as possible, so that a petition might be sent to the Provincial Legislature when the session meets on February 11th.

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THE Executive, being of opinion that the alterations recommended were in harmony with the opinions expressed at the last meeting of the National Council, decided to adopt the recommendation that a Conference be convened, and commissioned their secretary, Mrs. Willoughby Cummings, to write to the Vice-President for Ontario, Mrs. Frank Gibbs, requesting her to convene the Conference and to acquaint the Ontario Councils of its objects, and asking such to appoint two delegates to attend. The place of meeting is to be at Toronto, and the Local Council of that city will make all necessary arrangements and communicate these to the Local Councils at an early date. Another subject for discussion will be brought forward at this Conference by the London Local Council, who desire to see another method adopted in the election of women to boards of school trustees. The conclusions of the Conference on this subject will be reported to the Executive at their next meeting.

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WHILST speaking of this subject, we desire to record our great regret at the failure of the women candidates for the board of school trustees of London by just one vote. We feel confident that many, many ratepayers will deeply deplore this result.

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RAT PORTAGE LOCAL COUNCIL.

Their Excellencies Lord and Lady Aberdeen having accepted invitation of the Rat Portage Women's Council, on Tuesday, December 15th, paid Rat Portage a visit. They were met at the station by the officers of the Council, and others of the Reception Committee.

Carriages were in waiting, and according to a pre-arranged programme, their Excellencies, their daughter the Lady Marjorie, their little son, and Captain Sinclair, accompanied by the officers of the Council, the Reception Committee, and the Mayor of Rat Portage, were driven to St. Joseph's Academy, Tunnel Island, where they were most loyally welcomed by the nuns and young lady boarders.

This convent is in charge of the "Faithful Companions of Jesus" a community of recent establishment in this country, but who rank high in Great Britain, and on the Continent as teachers even of the daughters of noble and of royal houses.

Luncheon was served in the pleasant study hall of the convent, after which the distinguished party were conducted to the salon, where the young ladies presented an address to Lord and Lady Aberdeen, followed by a Convent Musicales.

His Excellency's reply to the address had in it the cordial encouragement, the unmistakable kindness of a voice heard "on a bright May morning long ago" when, on a similar occasion, Lord Dufferin, his eyes moist with tears, thanked the pupils of a certain Montreal academy for that most pathetic song, his own mother's composition.

From the academy their Excellencies were driven to the Music Hall, where all the school children of the town were gathered—their parents with them—to hear her Excellency, who had been requested to speak on "Band of Mercy" work.

Lady Aberdeen's discourse upon the claims of dumb animals, their worth, their helplessness, their affection to mankind, their capacity to