

WOMEN'S COUNCIL FOR REMOVAL OF OLD COURT HOUSE

Endorsation of Proposal For New
Large Building There—Com-
missioner Thornton Gives Ex-
planation

The St. John Local Council of Women at a special meeting held yesterday afternoon passed the following resolution: Resolved that this women's council in session today disagree with the wish of others to preserve the old Court House and endorse the suggestion of the mayor and commissioners that a newer and larger building be erected on that site.

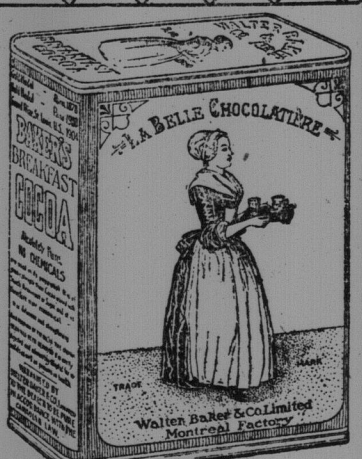
A resolution protesting against the destruction of the Court House was lost by a large majority, as was an amendment to the resolution passed which was to the effect that the various delegates take the matter before their respective societies before taking definite action.

The meeting was held in The King's Daughters' Guild and was presided over by Mrs. R. J. Hooper in the absence of the president, Mrs. E. Atherton Smith. Commissioner Thornton, by special request, was present and gave a statement of what it is proposed to do if the Court House is torn down. There was much heated discussion before the resolution given above was finally passed by a large majority. Mrs. McCready of the Sackville council was a welcome guest at the meeting.

Mrs. Charnichael of New Glasgow was appointed to represent the local council at the meeting of the executive of the National Council next week.

Commissioner Thornton enumerated the reasons why it was proposed to tear down the Court House. He said he was unaware that it had any architectural beauty; that it encroached forty feet on King street East; that its partial destruction had seemed opportune for the erection of a larger building in view of the crowded conditions in City Hall; that it would cost \$80,000 to repair the old Court House, the insurance for which amounted to only \$10,000; that it would not be possible to match the stone to give a uniform appearance exterior if the building were enlarged; that the two outside walls only, had freestone facing and that was of but six to eight inches of thickness; that there was no basement in the building and to excavate one through the solid rock would be very expensive; and that if left as it is, unroofed, through the winter, the building will be beyond repair. He then went on to outline what the city proposes to do if the Court House is destroyed. He told of two suggestions, first the purchasing of the whole block on which the Court House stands and which is already fifty per cent. city property, and the erection of a large municipal and community building, with possibly some accommodation for provincial government offices also, which would cost approximately \$1,000,000 or, second, the building of a smaller municipal building on the present site with additions in the rear at a cost of about \$334,000. He said much would be saved the city in rent if all its offices were under one roof.

Mrs. H. A. Powell suggested that the Court House might be preserved and another site chosen for the municipal building. Mrs. Alfred Morrissey said that



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an architect well known on four continents had expressed the opinion that the walls of the Court House were wonderfully built and were strong enough to defy the elements for many years if the building were roofed or bolted this winter. This protection it was said would cost about \$2,000 or \$3,000. Mrs. Morrissey spoke of the educational and religious influence of the pure architectural beauty of the building as it now is.

Commissioner Thornton pointed out that no arrangements had been made for tearing down the Court House, but that tenders had been called for. He said in reply to a question from Miss Amelia Haley that the money for the proposed new building would be raised by bond issue and that he thought that, at whatever time it was suggested to make large public expenditures, that time would be said to be inopportune. In replying to Mrs. Hooper, he said that the council could not guarantee to build on the Court House site at any definite time, and that the lot might be vacant for ten years. He also said that the city council would have to go to the people before it could authorize an expenditure of \$1,000,000 for the large municipal building.

Mrs. J. Verner McLellan spoke strongly against the preservation of the court house, saying that as a heavy taxpayer she objected to useless expenditure and that the enlarging of the court house which must entail the use of stone of different appearance would give the building a patch-work appearance.

Mrs. J. Willard Smith was strongly in favor of restoring the court house for the sake of historical associations and because of the beauty of its architecture. She moved that a protest be made by the council against the destruction of

national executive meeting in Hamilton were discussed at the close of the meeting.

It was announced that the drinking fountain that is to be erected at the corner of Brussels and Union streets had arrived in the city and that at a later date it would be possible to say when it would be erected. A vote of thanks was extended to A. W. Estey for his splendid services in connection with the buying and transporting of the fountain.

The sum of \$29 was brought in by Mrs. David McLellan, as commission on subscriptions to a magazine and was added to the treasury. Mrs. McLellan was heartily thanked for her energy in this matter.

TEA AND SALE BY THE ROYAL ARMS CHAPTER, I. O. D. E.

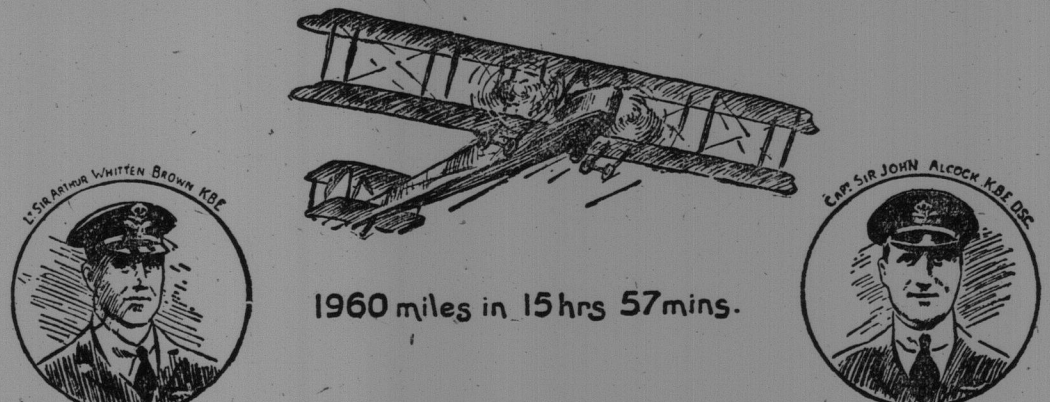
A most successful tea and sale was held under the auspices of the Royal Arms chapter of the I. O. D. E. in Orange Hall yesterday afternoon. Though but a young chapter, the Royal Arms has proved its ability to give delightful entertainments and yesterday it added another very enjoyable occasion to the list of its activities.

The hall was resplendent in attractively placed flags and bunting. Each of the small tea tables had its gay little decoration of red flowers in a silver vase and the central table from which the tea was served, was bright with scarlet candles, scarlet geraniums and gleaming silver. On the home cooking table, also, red flowers and candles and bright silver made striking ornaments among the tempting good things displayed. The fancy work table had a great store of dainty, useful and novel articles and all of the wares were in great demand. There was a very large number of patrons and the event was a social as well as financial success.

The regent of the chapter, Mrs. T. H. Carter, and all of the members assisted in making the tea so successful. The chief convener was Mrs. E. S. Stephenson, assisted by Mrs. Roy Gregory. Presiding at the tea table were: Mrs. R. W. Wigmore and Mrs. G. G. Corbett. Mrs. W. Taylor and Mrs. W. H. Anderson were in charge of the home cooking table and Mrs. T. P. Orr and Mrs. Paterson of the fancy work table. Those who assisted with the serving of the tea were: Mrs. A. Fraser, Mrs. John McConnell, Mrs. F. A. Dykeman, Mrs. James Christie, Mrs. J. Tilton, Mrs. C. J. Terry, Mrs. P. H. Nunn, Mrs. Charles Harding and Mrs. L. M. Curren. Amongst those who assisted, although not members of the chapter, were Miss Carter and Mrs. Callow.

The James Knox property, consisting of a brick house and a wooden house

located at the corner of Sydney and Queen streets, has been purchased by Charles W. Smith. Mr. Smith intends to occupy the brick house. The transfer of the property was recently made by the Eastern Trust Company.



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