

the gentle persistency of Her Excellency—I use the words advisedly. (Laughter.) The gentle persistency of Her Excellency has persuaded me to come here—not to come here exactly—that required no persuasion—but to take a part in the proceedings of the meeting, and to second the resolution which is now in my hands. That required some persuading—not through any want of good will on my part, not because my heart was not in the movement, but for other good and cogent reasons which I feel very strongly. I am accustomed, like my hon. friend, to rough it on the hill yonder, and the work that we have there to do is so very different from the work that I should have to do here, and the atmosphere which one breathes there is so very different from the atmosphere here, and especially the audience is so very different there, that I felt a little nervous at the very idea of appearing before such a select audience as this. (Laughter.) This is my reason and I hope you will appreciate it. But now I am in the swin, I do not know but that I shall enjoy it (laughter), for I certainly appreciate, as I never did before, the great sacrifices of time and of ease which are made by the ladies of the National Council for the advancement of our common country. I say our common country, and in this I make no exception, for if there was one thing of all others which I enjoyed in the admirable address of Her Excellency, it was that whenever she spoke, of Canada she always spoke of it as her country. (Loud applause.) Her Excellency will pardon me if I recall that she had not the advantage which most of us had of being born in this country; she was born in that little isle yonder in the sea, and not in this great country which extends up to the pole. But I hope Her Excellency will also pardon me if I say that wherever she goes, wherever official duties may call her, she will always become part and parcel of the country where she lives. (Applause.)

Her Excellency referred a few moments ago to the fact that there were some men who were still obdurate, who were not altogether reconciled to the idea which presided at the formation of the National Council of Women of Canada. Mr. Foster was kind enough to anticipate what I was going to remark—that that could not apply to any gentleman in this hall, and that Her Excellency meant to reach somebody outside by means of the press. I am sure Her Excellency could not have alluded to anybody from the good Province of Quebec, where husbands give their purses to their wives and have to coax their wives to give them money to spend. (Laughter.) If there is any part of the Dominion of Canada where the work which is undertaken by Her Excellency is to be appreciated it will be in the Province of Quebec, which is peopled by a race which above all things prides itself upon its gallantry. (Applause.)

For my part, ladies and gentlemen, I will only recall what is in the mind of you all. We know by the teaching of history how potent for good is the hand of woman. If you go for instance to France, the