

Y. W. C. A. BUILDING FORMALLY OPENED

Wife of the Premier Officiates
at Interesting Ceremony

THE ORATION

Stirring Address by Rev. Mr. MacKeigan, Who Pays
Fine Tribute to the Girls
and Women—Others Who
Take Part — The House
Inspected.

The Young Women's Christian Association building was formally opened yesterday afternoon by Mrs. W. E. Foster, wife of the premier of the province, and by special invitation the clergy and many of the prominent citizens were present to witness the inspiring opening ceremony, to view the building in all its parts, and to partake of the hospitality of the board in an afternoon tea in the cafeteria. With one accord everyone who had the privilege of being present expressed his or her delight in the appointments of the building and congratulated the board of directors on the success of its endeavor in providing so splendid a home for the girls of the city. The spirit of devotion and thankfulness for the present building and all that it meant in the city welfare, and of sincere and reverent hope that this building was but to be a stepping stone to still greater things, marked the address for the occasion and as the guests entered the building they were received by Mrs. J. A. MacKeigan, the president of the association, and Mrs. Costigan, the house mother of the new building, assisted by the members of the board and Miss Youmans, girls' secretary. The ceremony of dedicating the building open and dedicating it to God's service took place in the social room on the first floor of the home.

Mrs. MacKeigan, in extending the president's welcome to the large gathering, said that the presence of so many friends was not the first mark of interest that had been shown in the providing of this new home for the Y. W. C. A., but last fall, when the appeal for funds had been made, the interest taken in the scheme had been most apparent in the ready response of the citizens. She then called upon Mayor Hayes to take the chair.

His worship, having expressed himself as pleased to assist at such a happy occasion, spoke of the amount of care and attention which had been given by the Y. W. C. A. to boys who left their homes, and said that it was only recently that the work of the Y. W. C. A. in caring for young women had been developed to any large extent in St. John and the neighborhood. He felt that as girls were leaving their homes in increasing numbers to take up work independently, there was an increasingly great need for buildings such as the one about to be opened. He congratulated the directors in fitting it up so splendidly, and in such a short time, and expressed his conviction that if, on the expiration of the lease, the board should find that there was need for still further extension, and he thought they would do so, then they could feel assured that they would meet with hearty support from the citizens when they appealed to them once more. If the board had been at times discouraged in its efforts it could now rest assured that they had been crowned with success.

Rev. Neil MacLaughlan, in a deeply earnest prayer, voiced the thankfulness to God's service, and called down a blessing upon its future usefulness.

Rev. Dr. D. Hutchinson read the portion of scripture which he had chosen as appropriate to the occasion, the third chapter of First Corinthians, commencing at the fifth verse.

The Oration.
Rev. J. A. MacKeigan had been asked to deliver the oration and he spoke with much feeling in eloquent and inspiring language. First congratulating the board of directors and the young ladies who would occupy the home, he went on to congratulate the citizens of St. John also on the opening of the home in as much as it was an evidence of their awakening to the realization of the importance of constructive helpfulness. He said the quotation, "As unto the low the cord is so unto the man is woman, though she bends him she obeys him, though she leads him still she follows," had in the past meant that women lead in doing good works, but had to follow in having good works done for her, and that the Y. W. C. A. was only now beginning to get the local consideration and support which was its due. The citizens were learning that the jails and the rescue homes should not be the institutions to give help to women, but with constructive and positive help rather than correction of faults the good of the nation would

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be accomplished. He stated that if the money spent on immigration for the ten years which preceded the war had been devoted to the betterment of the then existing population, Canada would now be numerically stronger and morally much higher.

Mr. MacKeigan drew an amusing picture of the women of by-gone days who were supposed to stay at home, sew, doilies, put them away in a hope-chest and then—wait. Women today were, he said, following their hoves, or beasts, into far fields. They had helped in every way towards the winning of the war and would take the same high place in solving the problems of peace and building the nation from a foundation of the qualities which shall endure.

He spoke of the great number of girls who have taken up work far from their homes, saying that many of them were lonely and that very loneliness was the opportunity of good or evil. Housed in such a building as the new Y. W. C. A. home they would be safeguarded from dangers and the inspiration received in church on Sunday would be helped in spreading its guiding influence through the week. He emphasized particularly the responsibility of the churches and such institutions that from the girl's loneliness should be brought smiling hope and stouter heart.

The home should also be, he said, an educational centre where the ambitious girl could learn, and from which would come forth better business women to be a factor in bringing about a nobler manhood in the city.

In the new home Mr. MacKeigan saw a great centre for co-operation with religious interests for the ultimate good of the common cause, for the solution of community problems and for the realization of the eternity of the common God. In concluding he wished the association "Godspeed" in all its endeavors and hoped that so far from the present building meeting the entire needs of the city it might reveal much greater needs and that the work might increase and expand with time to be a perpetual benefit to the community.

Mrs. W. E. Foster then most gracefully pronounced the words which formally dedicated the building open. "In the name of the board of directors of the Young Women's Christian Association, I now declare this building open for the physical, social and moral welfare of the young women of this city and community. We hope it may be ever a centre of friendly helpfulness and increase in force and usefulness with the passing years."

Mrs. MacKeigan extended to all present the cordial invitation to make a tour of inspection of the house and to partake of tea in real cafeteria fashion as the guests of the association, and the guests eagerly accepted the invitation.

The annual physical display of the Y. M. C. A. was held in the gymnasium last evening and was a grand success. The programme was varied and consisted of drills, gymnasium work and tumbling, and altogether was one of the best that has been given by the institution. The programme was opened with the grand march in which all the members took part. This was followed by military marching, an Indian war dance,

drills and games by the Junior A boys. The boys came into the gymnasium in regular Indian fashion and after giving an Indian war dance, a ring, representing a camp fire, was formed and four challenge games, consisting of rooster, dog and chicken fights and Oriental wrestling, were fought by various of the chiefs and braves of the tribes. This was followed by a fine exhibition of tumbling by the clowns, impersonated by F. Fee, K. Jones, R. Hayes, G. Stammers, P. Nase and H. Williams. The best act of the night was the diving through a hoop of fire by Sterling and Williams. A wooden hoop, saturated with wood

alcohol, was suspended from the ceiling. All the light in the gymnasium were then turned out; the hoop was lighted and the clowns then dived through the blazing hoop of fire, making a very picturesque and thrilling picture. This is the first time that this feat has been attempted in St. John.

Next on the programme was a fine exhibition of Swedish exercises by the Junior B boys. Next was a two round boxing match by Kee and Jones, two of the clowns, and needless to say this created no end of amusement. The next was free-hand pyramid building by fifteen members of the

High school class, and the wonderful human pyramids that were thus constructed were in truth one of the leading features of the evening. A humorous event on the programme was a weight-lifting exhibition by "Professor" Sterling, who in turn lifted a 200 pound barbell and a 250 pound pyramid weight to his arm's length. This stunt brought forth rounds of applause.

B leaders then gave a fine display of apparatus work on the side horse. This was followed by the Trail Rangers class who gave an excellent demonstration in various group games. The junior business boys under the direction of their

instructor, Basil Robertson, next took the floor and went through their regular setting up exercises, and also did some fine running and marching. Five senior leaders also gave an excellent exhibition of several daring stunts on the parallel bars. The final number on the programme was a funeral procession in which a corpse was carried around the floor to the strains of the dead march and followed by the weeping and mourning clowns. The exhibition came to a conclusion at about 10.15 by the playing of the national anthem. Robert S. Coupe acted as pianist, and much of the success of the evening is no doubt

due to the able manner in which he presided at the piano and accompanied the various exercises, drills and marching.

The board of trade has received a request from the Yukon Development League, Dawson, that the local organization co-operate with the league in the development of the vast resources of the territory. President Frank Lowe of the league states that there are 370,000 square miles rich in minerals and other valuable resources. He thinks that all of Canada should assist in developing the Yukon as the United States has done in Alaska.

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