

But, ladies and gentlemen, I have been asked by the members of this Council to-night to dwell not so much on the work attempted here locally as to tell them something of the work being carried on by other Local Councils throughout the Dominion, and therefore if I give you a tedious list of their efforts you must forgive me and remember it is but your own fault.

First then let me remind you of the successful efforts which have been made by all the Local Councils in Ontario for the introduction of manual education and more especially the teaching of cooking and sewing into our public schools. The two Councils of Hamilton and Toronto were most active in this respect at the beginning, but they were soon joined by all the other Councils in Ontario, and although at first they had no reason to think that their wishes would be so speedily fulfilled, yet in a year the Provincial Government introduced and gave the needful permission, so that now any School Board in Ontario may introduce manual teaching into any of the schools. Moreover, Hamilton saw that one great difficulty which would lie in the way of the introduction of this manual training would be that there would be no teachers prepared to give it, and therefore they started a School of Domestic Science to teach young ladies in these arts in such a way that they should be prepared to make a beginning. Several other Councils have taken up this subject. In Winnipeg our Council was pressing the subject when we were last there, and in British Columbia a bill was prepared last Session and will probably be introduced during the course of the present Session of the Local Legislature having the introduction of manual education for its object. I do not think I need speak to a Council of Women on the necessity of introduction of this training. The mothers of Canada realize but too well its importance and the difficulties and discomfort which many of their children have had to go through in the past for want of this training which they had not time to give themselves. That then is one of the first things in which we interested ourselves, and are still interested. We hope at our coming Conference at Montreal, in May, to have a section specially devoted to the importance of manual training, and we hope that Dr. Adler, of New York, and other authorities will speak to us on the subject.

I ought to say that in the Province of Quebec this has been taken up too, and in Montreal much has been done towards it. We had the pleasure of seeing the opening of a new public school, the Aberdeen school, the other day, where five of the schools in Montreal take practical lessons in cooking. It has been said sometimes that children would not care for this but when girls are told to come away from their grammar and arithmetic to their cooking, it is easy to see which of their lessons they like best. (Applause.)

Another thing taken up was the appointment of women factory inspectors. There also the Provincial Government of Ontario met our Councils most kindly, and in fact did more than we asked, for not