

## National Council of Women in Montreal

IF Parliament is Socrates, then the National Council of Women is Xanthippe. And if Parliament has the wise man's wisdom, it is probably at this moment exclaiming in its heart of hearts (if it has one): "There is Xanthippe thundering again, one must look out for rain." Xanthippe had quite a gift, you recall, with the bucket.

At any rate, the National Council has got its thunder ready; prepared it in Montreal last week—twenty-one years before that, indeed, for some of its well-known objects—so that Parliament, now, may expect to need its umbrella.

### Legislation to be Urged.

Some recommendations the Council adopted which may affect legislation are as follows:

"That the various local councils investigate the problems of childhood, with



Mrs. F. H. Torrington, of Toronto, Recently Re-elected at the Meeting in Montreal as President of the National Council of Women.

a view to securing the establishment of a Federal bureau of child welfare, under expert direction." An outcome, this, of the report read by Mrs. Leathes, of Toronto, in the absence of Mrs. Edwards, of Alberta, convener of the standing committee on laws for the better protection of women and children. "A live" discussion on visible hangings," as one journal, unconsciously flippant, put it, was another gentle issue from this report. A further outgrowth was a resolution to request the government to make wife desertion and non-support of families indictable and extraditable offences. Other discussions were on the granting of divorces, the employment of white girls by Oriental masters, and the advance in police methods as affecting women.

"That efforts be continued to secure the Municipal, Provincial and Dominion franchise for women on equal terms with men," was heartily endorsed.

"That government be petitioned to appoint agents, in Britain and also on the continent of Europe, to examine intending immigrants, to investigate their local standing and to decide their desirability as future citizens of Canada; and that in the meantime agents of the immigration department be made responsible for

immigrants admitted and fined five dollars per head in case of default."

This was a resolution arrived at after hearing Miss Fitzgibbon's report (read by Mrs. Hamilton, of Toronto,) on immigration. It was also adopted that matrons be appointed to travel on steamship lines and on trains which carry large parties of women steerage passengers. On the motion of Miss Derick, of Montreal, the committee was instructed to investigate the whole question of assisted immigration and the bonus system.

As a result of the report on education, prepared by Miss Ritchie, of Halifax, it was decided that Provincial Governments be urged to provide for medical inspection in rural districts; that local councils should work to establish night schools where none exist; and that they seek to have women elected to the school boards, or have council committees attend school board meetings.

The report of the committee on vacation schools and supervised play grounds was adopted. The committee is to be known hereafter as that on supervised play, recreation and social centres.

Miss Peters, of St. John, promoter of play grounds, strongly urged the formation at once of a National Play Grounds Association. Play grounds work, Miss Peters affirmed, was formative as opposed to reformatory in result.

The suggestion was made and promptly adopted that the delegates form themselves into a committee of the whole, for the purpose of bombarding the members of the Dominion Parliament with missives emphasizing the necessity for passing measures respecting the suppression of the white slave traffic, which were then before the House. Flogging was discussed as a punitive measure to be meted to arch-offenders in this cause. The discussion grew out of a letter received from Mrs. Flora McDonald Denison, of Toronto.

The committee on peace and arbitration reported through Mrs. Courtice. Mrs. Adam Shortt endorsed her suggestions for substituting for war, declaring that war was a woman's concern to banish. Mrs. Courtice will be a delegate of the council to The Hague.

Miss Derick, reporting on "Employments for Women," submitted the following list of recommendations: Compulsory education for all children from five to fourteen years of age; trade and technical education for girls in Government institutions, all departments of which should be open to both sexes; employment bureaus in close connection with the public schools; the taking of an annual school census; the establishment of women's hotels and clubs for wage earners; the admission of women to the professional faculties of all universities, and to the practice of all the learned professions; and equal remuneration for equal work, regardless of sex.

### Some Extra Features.

"Quebec's Unjust Laws for Women," a paper prepared by Dr. Stowe Gullen, of



Mrs. George Dickson, Who Recently Succeeded Miss Constance Boulton as President of the Women's Canadian Club, Toronto.

Toronto, and circulated among the delegates, evoked no little amount of controversy. The upshot was, it became apparent, that Quebec is but little behind in the feminist movement.

A group of delegates from the council paid an interested visit to the MacDonold Farm, located at St. Anne de Bellevue. A girl student was pointed out who was shortly to take her degree in agriculture. Mrs. Hamilton, convener of the committee on agriculture, was keenly alive to the methods and the results.

Mrs. Snowdon, the English suffragist and the guest in Montreal of Lady Drummond, addressed the Council on woman's suffrage which, according to her, is the same as co-operative progress.

An afternoon session was devoted to the inspection of the Council's milk station, which feeds the needy babies at nominal cost. Mrs. Smillie was kind in describing the system.

An enjoyable function was the informal reception by which McGill University welcomed the Council.

The greetings of welcome extended the Council by Madame Dandurand were a triumph of gracious phrasing and kindly expression. She welcomed the body's present return to the city of Montreal, seventeen years having passed since last it met there.

### Officers Re-elected.

Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Connaught was elected Vice-President for Canada in the International Council. Canada's nominee for President of the International Council will be the Countess of Aberdeen, and Mrs. Sanford, of Hamilton, who for nine years has been Treasurer of the same body, was re-nominated for that position. All the officers of the National Council were re-elected as follows:

Hon. President, Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Connaught; Advisory President, the Countess of Aberdeen; President, Mrs. F. H. Torrington, Toronto; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Willoughby Cummings, Toronto; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Plumpton, Toronto; Treasurer, Mrs. Watt, Brantford, Ont.

The seven elected Vice-Presidents of the Council were all re-elected as follows: Lady Laurier, Ottawa; Mrs. R. L. Borden, Ottawa; Mrs. Sanford, Hamilton; Mrs. Robt. Thompson, St. John; Mrs. Frost, Smith's Falls; Lady Taylor, Hamilton, and Prof. Carrie Derick, Montreal.

The only change in the Provincial Vice-Presidents was the election of Mrs. Adam Shortt, of Ottawa, to succeed Mrs. Watkins, of Hamilton. The other Provincial Vice-Presidents are: Nova Scotia, Miss Carmichael, New Glasgow; New Brunswick, Mrs. McLellan, St. John; Quebec, Mme. Dandurand, Montreal; Manitoba, Mrs. McEwen, Brandon; Alberta, Mrs. O. C. Edwards, Macleod; British Columbia, Mrs. MacAuley, Vancouver. Saskatchewan Province has failed to elect a Vice-President yet.

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