

## FROM A WOMAN'S POINT OF VIEW

A NOTABLE VICTORIA I. O. D. E. WORKER

By Edith M. Cuppage.

An interesting personality in the large and influential organization, the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire, is Mrs. C. D. Neroutsos of Victoria, educational secretary for the Provincial branch. Not only has Mrs. Neroutsos given much time and energy to the work of enlarging the activities of the educational work of the order, but she has contributed to the wider scope of the organization through her association with the Navy League of Canada in her duties as former honorary organizing secretary for British Columbia.

The I. O. D. E. has for a long time supported the Navy League as part of its work in promoting Imperialism in a practical way, and in Mrs. Neroutsos the Provincial Chapter has a secretary well qualified to cement the bond between the two patriotic organizations working for greater Imperial unity. On a tour of the province a short time ago, Mrs. Neroutsos was successful in promoting a number of branches in the settled districts throughout British Columbia, and inspiring an interest which might otherwise have been confined to the port cities. With a retiring disposition, little liking publicity, she carried on the work unostentatiously, but none the less effectively.

The educational work of the I. O. D. E. having assumed larger proportions this year than ever before, provides a wide field for the energies of British Columbia's indefatigable secretary, for in it is incorporated the big war memorial scheme of the order, for which \$200,000 is to be raised in Canada to be spent in educational work as a memorial to the men and women who died gloriously in the great war. British Columbia has decided to contribute \$50,000 to this fund.

The memorial scheme has been worked out in details, which have already been given to the public. Briefly, educational facilities for Canadian school children, with particular provision for the families of veterans, will be increased with a view to promoting Imperialism out of a better knowledge of the Empire's ideals and traditions. The various chapters of the order in this province have already embarked on the work of raising their contribution to this important undertaking.

A tribute to the valuable co-operation between the Navy League in British Columbia, and the National Chapter of the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire was paid at the last annual meeting of the latter. The Navy League purchased from the I. O. D. E. four hundred and thirty pictures depicting great naval events in the history of the Empire, as well as a number of gift and prize books dealing with the history of the Empire. The Navy League, wherever organized, recognizes the local chapters of the I. O. D. E. by making their officers ex-officio members. Mrs. Gooderham, president of the National Chapter, I. O. D. E., is first vice-president of the Dominion Navy League. The continuance of the harmonious relations of the two great organizations, whose aims are identical, is urged by the Navy League committee of the I. O. D. E.

Under the direction of the educational secretaries for the province, school libraries have been established in the country districts, where suitable reading matter is comparatively scarce. In places where a large foreign element prevails, these libraries are doing excellent work in Canadianizing the alien born, or children of alien parentage. Sets of historical pictures have also been placed in the Normal schools of the province.

Mrs. Neroutsos believes in the good influence of women in public life for the betterment of humanity. She advocates that the I. O. D. E. should support at least one woman can-

didate for school board or city council. Just this month at a meeting of the Provincial Chapter, I. O. D. E., she sounded a clarion call to women to come forward and take their part in the affairs of the country. There was never a time, she declared, when there was so much work for women to do as in these reconstruction days. The rehabilitation of soldiers on the land and the care of their families, some of whom are new to this country, is a subject in which Mrs. Neroutsos is especially interesting herself.

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