

1896, when two were appointed. Without delay, requests were made for an amended Shop Act which would extend the jurisdiction of the inspectors. The required amendment was finally obtained in 1901 and the provision of seats in shops was also made obligatory.

Legislation affecting the working hours of women and children have often been considered. In 1896, when the length of the working hours for women and children were discussed at great length in the National Council, the Montreal Council took the advanced position which it has since maintained. It pointed out the danger of placing women and children in the same category. It also contended that there should be no discrimination between men and women in industry, but that shorter hours and good conditions should be secured for all. Since women were striving for equality of educational opportunity, for the right to enter freely into industrial and professional life, and for equal pay for equal work, the Montreal Council believed it unwise to ask for special privileges.

These views have often been laid before the Provincial Legislature in petitions and memorials, usually with little effect. In 1902, however, the Council secured the defeat of a bill designed to prevent the employment of women as stenographers in the Supreme Court.

Great interest has always been taken in the laws regarding the property of married women and in the succession laws. In January, 1906, the Local Council and the Fédération Nationale held a large public meeting in the Monument Nationale for the discussion of a bill proposing to amend the succession law of Quebec. Owing to the unavoidable absence of the Hon. N. Perodeau, the bill was explained by Mr. Lafontaine, K.C. and Dean Walton of McGill University. Resolutions were subsequently passed approving of the suggested amendments. Only now, in 1915, has the bill in a modified form become law.

In 1908, the Fédération Nationale directed the attention of the Council to a bill to amend the Homesteading Law, which would permit a settler to sell his homestead without the consent of his wife. It had already passed its third reading in the Legislature. A petition opposing the measure was at once prepared, and Mme. Gérin-Lajoie and Madame Belque of the Fédération Nationale, and Dr. Ritchie-England of the Council, were sent to Quebec to present the petition. Although their representations were listened to with courtesy, the bill passed.

In 1899, several important reforms in connection with the immigration of children were brought by the Council to the attention of the Provincial Legislature which at once passed the required legislation.

In 1895 and 1896, a reformative institution for girls and a juven-