

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

(Continued from page 19).

of her Excellency, which had been made by the Council, therefore naturally all come to naught, which was to be regretted as the executive committee had spared no pains to tender their National President the welcome due to her from a loyal affiliated Council. A deputation consisting of the vice-president, Mrs. Bucher, and others, had been appointed to meet Her Excellency at the train with a carriage, flowers were ordered for a presentation bouquet, the Dunn Hall was decorated, an orchestra was in attendance, and all arranged for in honor of the guest of the evening. As a small token of the esteem wherein Lady Aberdeen is held by the Victoria Branch, an informal reception with refreshments had been planned to take place at the close of the public meeting; but all these kindly intentions, alas! failed to materialize for reasons that none could either foresee or obviate. Tide and time wait for no man, and neither can mortals control the snow storms and slides which occasionally detain the C.P.R. trains; only it was truly unfortunate that such a *contretemps* should have occurred on this particular day.

The programme prepared for the public meeting was an excellent one, and here I would not that the method and organization of the Vancouver Council, not only with regard to this special gathering, but on all public and private occasions, is worthy of commendation.

It was announced that Mrs. J. C. McLagan, treasurer, had kindly consented to attend the conference in Victoria as delegate from Vancouver, and most ably did she subsequently fulfil the duties of her position at the Island meetings.

On the morning of the 26th, at the executive meeting, Her Excellency, at the request of Mrs. Bucher, first vice-president (and acting president during the absence of Lady Reid), occupied the chair, and after the usual opening with silent prayer, much profitable discussion was entered into on topics affecting the general welfare of the community, and especially some points that mainly apply to the condition of women and children in British Columbia. Her Excellency, after a few introductory remarks, called upon Mrs. Bucher to speak. We give a synopsis of her admirable address.

Your Excellency, Members of the Executive Committee:

In the absence of our esteemed president, Lady Reid, it is my high privilege and great pleasure to welcome Your Excellency to our midst again. We rejoice in your coming. Your banding together of our different associations of women into a local council, thus giving more intimate knowledge of each other's work has, we feel, resulted in larger mutual sympathy, greater unity of thought, and more effective action, as intended in its formation, and as part of the National Council of this Dominion we can feel we are furthering this application of the Golden Rule to society,

"custom and law throughout its borders." The different localities have their own individual needs to supply, or conditions to reform, and ours are not like those of other communities. We can be thankful that in our ten-year-old city we have already much that others are still striving for, such as our free library, flourishing art and scientific society, commodious children's home, built by women's efforts and made over furnished and free of debt to children's use, where thirty are wisely cared for; the Young Woman's Mutual Improvement Home, the Friendly Aid Society and Aberdeen Association (both founded by this Council), the Violet Ministering Guild, and our hospitals. We have no pauper emigrant children to investigate, nor have we to agitate for factory inspectors, as in more thickly populated communities. Still we have needs which are pressing and for which we must ask the consideration of the public and its co-operation to supply. A woman's ward is sadly wanted in connection with our city hospital. This has been promised by the city fathers but is still unbuilt. There is at present no temporary accommodation for the insane till they can be conveyed to the Provincial asylum. This might well be included in the hospital addition, but ought to be provided for elsewhere till the new ward is erected together with simple appliances for safe restraint. A matron is a necessity to look after women offenders against the law, and seats should be provided for all women clerks in shops. A curfew law would be a boon to keep children off the streets after given hours, unless with their guardians, and in connection with our schools, domestic science for the girls, and manual instruction for the boys are indispensable in these days, for a well-rounded education should include not only brains but hands. Women trustees on school boards have proved to be valuable aids, and considered indeed most necessary in other places. So we desire them, too. Whatever will protect our homes or make our children better future citizens must specially claim our interest. Enough has, I am sure, been said to outline the situation. There is sufficient work to do whilst these facts remain true. Shall we not all use our best endeavors to bring about as speedily as may be this successful accomplishment?

Several points mentioned in the foregoing address were then gone into more minutely, and at the suggestion of Her Excellency Mrs. McGovern (recording secretary at Port Arthur), who was present at the meeting, was requested to obtain information from Miss Livingstone regarding the inauguration of courses of cooking lessons to be given at an early date in Vancouver. The question of appointing women trustees on the local school board was then fully discussed, and some action will soon be taken on this subject, which is one that appeals to every parent in the district. The words of encouragement and commendation bestowed upon the Vancouver Local Council by Her Excellency were well calculated to inspire its members with fresh courage and perseverance in the coming year's work, and most deeply do they feel the help and

benefit of such a meeting as that which took place on November 26th, when both by her wise judgment and capable advice Lady Aberdeen gave a new impetus to their work in Vancouver.

A delightful musical "At Home" was given by the Local Branch at Hastings Mill House, Vancouver, the residence of Mrs. Beecher, who kindly gave up the use of her reception rooms to the Council on Monday, November 16th. A charming programme of instrumental and vocal numbers was conducted at intervals throughout the evening, and at nine o'clock refreshments were served to all present.

As the primary object of this entertainment was to raise funds for the Council Treasury, an admission fee of twenty-five cents was charged, and from the large attendance of ladies and gentlemen it may be gathered that the receipts were by no means small. A pleasing feature of the evening was the presence of the Hon. Mr. Tarte and his party, who not only came as willing guests, but evinced much interest in the work of the Council generally. Mrs. McGovern, the recording secretary at Port Arthur, Mr. and Mrs. Nosse, the Japanese Consul, and his wife; (the latter being a patroness of the Vancouver Council); and Mr. and Mrs. Jardin, the French Consul, and his wife were also present.

THE TEA TABLE.

When using Ceylon Tea, care should be taken to put in the pot only about one-half of what is used in the case of China and Japan Teas. The receipt for making tea as given by the "SALADA" Ceylon Tea people is as follows: "Warm the tea-pot. Put in a heaping teaspoonful of "SALADA" Tea for every two cups. Pour on freshly boiled water and allow to infuse from eight to ten minutes. Pour the liquor off the leaves into another tea-pot and serve." When made in this way, if kept warm, "SALADA" will retain its delicious flavor for hours. The great point in tea-making is to be sure that the water is really boiling before pouring on the tea, and not allowed to boil again during infusion.

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