

almanac being permitted to be sold in that country. Although containing reliable astronomical information its chief mission is to give full and accurate information for selecting lucky places for performing all the acts, great and small, of everyday life. And as every act of life in China, however trivial, depends for its success on the time in which and the direction (point of compass) toward which it is done, it is of the utmost importance that everyone should have correct information at all times available to enable him so to order his life as to avoid bad luck and calamity and secure good luck and prosperity. So great is the native faith in its infallibility that not long since the Chinese Minister to Germany refused to sail on a day that had been appointed because it was declared in the almanac to be unlucky.

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During the past month the event of greatest interest and importance to feminine Canada has been the ninth annual meeting of the National Council of Women, which was held in St. John, New Brunswick, in the early part of July. The National Council of Women, being rather a federation of societies than a primary organization, embraces a vast range of interests, its affiliated branches reaching out to cover the wide fields of religion, philanthropy, education, history, literature, art, social progress, political reform, the improvement of the condition of the poor, prison reform, and, in brief, all that tends to the uplifting and betterment of mankind.

From all parts of the Dominion earnest and enthusiastic delegates gathered together in the beautiful little city of St. John to exchange reports and arrange plans for the furthering of their work. Each branch was able to give an encouraging account of what had been and was being done, and highly satisfactory reports were read from the following committees: Committee on Laws for the Better Protection of Women and Children, Committee on Domestic Science, Committee

on the Custodial Care of Feeble-Minded Women, Committee on Promotion of Industrial and Fine Arts, Committee on Care of the Aged Poor, Committee on Women on School Boards, Committee on Raising of Loan for Doukhobor Women, Committee on Pernicious Literature, Committee on Immigration, Committee on Bureau of Information, Committee on Press. Formal papers were contributed by Mrs. Torrington, of the Toronto College of Music, who read a paper on Music—Its National Influence; by Miss Danard, of the Victoria Alumnae Association, who spoke on the Necessity for Purity Teaching in the Public Schools; by Mrs. Nicholson Cutter, of the Toronto Conservatory School of Literature and Expression, who read an essay on Physical Culture—Its Place in Education; by Dr. Rosebrugh, who sent in an admirable paper on Prison Reform; by Mrs. Rose Holden and Mrs. Marion Baxter, who treated of Provident Schemes for Women; and by Mrs. McNaughton, who gave an instructive paper on Penny Savings Banks.

Addresses were also delivered by Mrs. J. L. Hughes, Mrs. Hoodless, Mrs. J. K. Barney, Rev. Canon Richardson, Judge Ritchie, Dr. Fraser, Rev. G. Campbell, Prof. Robertson, Dr. Worcester, Dr. Inch, Rev. Y. de Soyres, and others.

Among the most interesting reports read were those from the Woman's Art Association, whose chief object is the dissemination of knowledge and cultivation of artistic taste by means of lectures, art loan exhibitions, etc.; the King's Daughters, who are doing much good work in many directions, and the Victorian Order of Nurses, whose work is not as widely known or appreciated as it should be. The Order reports eight hospitals now in use, three of which were opened during the past year. Three new ones will be opened in September, and three more places are under consideration.

Dr. Worcester, head of the training school at Malden, in speaking of the efficient services of the Victorian Nur-