

The National Council of Women and Conservation

AN ADDRESS BY

MRS. H. P. PLUMPTRE

Recording Secretary of the National Council of Women of Canada

MR. CHAIRMAN, Ladies and Gentlemen : I am sure you will understand that I have come here not as a speaker but as one who desires to learn. I am representing the National Council of Women, which is a federated organization of thirty-one Local Councils, in as many of our largest cities. There are, too, sixteen affiliated societies of women, many of them having very large memberships. For example, I might mention the Daughters of the Empire, the Victorian Order (which indeed is the child of the National Council, for the National Council originated the work of the Victorian Order of Nurses), the Women's Institutes and a great many others which I need not detain you by mentioning. We have, in all, a membership in our Council and affiliated societies of about one hundred and fifty thousand women, so that we feel that we have a large backing in any work we undertake, and that what we learn we are able to disseminate amongst a very large number of people.

More than that, we, as a National Council, represent but one of twenty countries from which the International Council draws its membership. All the great countries of the world are represented on the International Council of Women.

Work of Local Councils

Our work is chiefly carried on in the Local Councils in the various cities. These are granted considerable freedom of action, but there are a few general regulations. Thus, no Local Council is allowed to approach any legislature without the permission of the National Council. We desire to save legislative bodies from being troubled by small requests or by requests for things which are not necessary at the time or