



Edited by THE COUNTESS OF ABERDEEN

NOTES OF THE COUNCIL.

Our budget of Council news for this month is a big one, and we are afraid that we cannot include the reports of as many meetings as we would like.

All the reports, which are reaching us daily, are cheerful, and betoken activity and progress in various directions. They also indicate that our workers themselves realize more fully the real scope and idea of the Council, and so are able to make it serve its purpose more usefully than heretofore.

The many-sidedness of the subjects in which our Councils interest themselves is perplexing to those who have to deal with work of the National Council as a whole, but we regard it as one of the surest signs of health that the movement is shaping itself to the needs of each district, and does not seek merely to repeat the same form of effort everywhere without reference to the real wants of the people.

At the same time, there are certain subjects which have been brought before the National Council which are receiving attention at the hands of all our Local Councils, thus illustrating how our organisation can act as an educative agency, spreading knowledge and introducing thought on matters intimately connected with the welfare of the country as a whole.

The first step has been taken towards holding Provincial Conferences. It will be remembered that a suggestion has been made that Provincial Councils should be formed in addition to the National Council for the whole country and the Local Councils for the districts. It was, however, generally felt that it was altogether too early to take this step, even if it were deemed desirable later on. Even this is problematical, but at the present stage it was clear that we should be needlessly adding organisation and red-tape and that it would be exceedingly difficult to find sufficient officers willing to undertake Provincial duties in addition to those required for Local Councils. It was, however, agreed that occasional Provincial Conferences, especially in the distant provinces might with advantage be arranged as need arose.

Accordingly Miss Perrin, vice-president for British Columbia and the Victoria Local Council, issued invitations to the other three B. C. Councils to attend a Conference at Victoria.

Mrs. MacLagan, who represented the Vancouver Local Council so acceptably at the National

Council, came over from Vancouver, and Mrs. Cochrane, President of the Vernon Local Council, also attended. Mrs. Molson Spragge, President of the East Kootenay Council, was disappointed in being unable to attend, and other delegates from Vancouver, Madame Martin and Sister Francis, were also kept back at the last moment by invalids requiring their care at home.

But even this beginning was satisfactory when the great distances to be traversed in the exceptionally severe weather experienced in British Columbia this November is considered.

The Conference was most interesting, and a report both of it and of the large public meeting held at Victoria in connection with it will be given in our next number.

All present felt much indebted to Miss Perrin, provincial vice-president, for the capital arrangements made and carried out.

It was a great disappointment to the president that the heavy snowfall so retarded the train that she was unable to attend the meeting of Council arranged for her at Vancouver, but on account of the business transacted at an executive meeting will be found farther on.

The little Local Council at Vernon has fully justified its existence, and is a proof in itself of how Councils in young places can be formed with great advantage.

The ladies composing it freely admit that it has been the means of bringing them all together from different sections and churches as nothing else would have done. The management of the industrial department at the Agricultural Show which was placed in their hands by the directors, proved a marked success, and they are now busily engaged in preparing for cooking classes to be conducted in February by Miss Livingstone, and also for providing a cottage hospital, a long felt want in the district.

From Halifax we have many items of interest to report:

The Local Council there hoped to have been successful in obtaining two seats for ladies on the city School Board this year, but their hopes have been deferred on this occasion—yet they look forward confidently to the future.

In the meanwhile they are making a vigorous effort to obtain a School of Domestic Science.

They have already obtained a promise from the

new "People's Light and Heat Co." to fit up such a school gratis with gas ranges and to supply light and fuel. A generous hardware merchant has undertaken to present utensils.

A good location is in view, and now a deputation from the Council is to ask the School Board for a grant which the ladies will themselves supplement by raising a subscription.

The president, Mrs. Archibald, read a capital paper on Manual Education, and on the need of a course on the subject being provided for teachers at the Normal Training College.

This paper was read at the Educational Conference at Truro and was very well received. We hope to give extracts from it later on.

The same Council is urging the appointment of a police matron, and a patrol wagon for taking prisoners to the station, and they desire to bring a resolution before the National Council with the object of drawing the attention of the Government to the desirability of giving the judges power to clear the court of spectators when they deem fit so to do, in the cases of certain trials of women and children.

The National Council will much regret the loss of Mrs. Lyle from its executive by her retirement from the presidency of the Hamilton Council which she has filled so admirably.

Her friends would not venture to press her to remain, inasmuch as her doctor urged that she should be relieved from some of the duties which she performed so faithfully, and we are only glad to know that her interest will be in no way diminished.

We heartily welcome Mrs. Sanford, who was unanimously elected as Mrs. Lyle's successor.

In next number we hope to give some information regarding the meeting of the executive of the National Council of Women of the United States, who have courteously invited us to send representatives.

HAMILTON LOCAL COUNCIL.

The third annual meeting of the Hamilton Local Council of Women was held on Tuesday, Nov. 17, 1896, in the Wesleyan Ladies' College.

Despite inclement weather the attendance was gratifying—

The routine business was first transacted; the recording secretary's annual report showed twenty affiliations on the roll, and indicated various matters to which the Council's attention had been directed during the year, such as the appointment of dental inspectors to examine the teeth of school children, which matter has been favorably considered by the Provincial Board of Health; instruction in Domestic Science in the Public Schools, which has not yet been introduced in Hamilton; the appointment of Women on the board of governors of the city hospital, for which a clause was provided in the by-law, giving the option of such appointment; the organization of national home reading union circles, three of which have been formed in this city.

The corresponding secretary's report showed the number of letters written and was a partial synopsis of the year's correspondence.

The treasurer's statement showed receipts and disbursements to the amount of \$58.39.

The president then read her address, taking a review of the year's work of the National Council in general, and of this Local Council in particular; among the points on which she touched were the