

ORIGIN OF ALEXANDRA SCHOOL.

AT this time—1889—there was no institution in the Province, outside of the juvenile branch of the Mercer Reformatory, for the care of wayward or delinquent girls, and it was felt that there should be an industrial school. For the consideration of this subject a number of citizens met in the Y. M. C. A. parlors on December 10, 1889, when the establishment of the Alexandra School was decided upon. The following is the newspaper account of the meeting:

About fifty ladies who have interested themselves in the movement to establish a Girl's Industrial School, met in one of the Y.M.C.A. parlors yesterday to consider what steps should be taken for the furtherance of this subject. The meeting was presided over by Mrs. W. T. Aikens, with Miss M. Wilkes as Secretary, and among the ladies present were Mrs. Archdeacon Boddy, Mrs. Harvie, Mrs. Edward Blake, Mrs. W. C. Matthews, Mrs. George Kerr, Mrs. O'Reilly, Miss M. C. Elliot, Mrs. Finch, etc. The ladies had invited Rev. Dr. Potts, Inspector Hughes, Staff-Inspector Archibald, Rev. Leroy Hooker and J. J. Kelso to address the meeting as to the need of such an institution, and these gentlemen gave many facts showing that the establishment of a Girls' Industrial Home is a pressing necessity. The first speaker, Mr. Kelso, pointed out that while much was being done in Toronto to reform criminals, very little effort was being made to save the children from drifting into the same channel. He referred to the licensing measure for newschildren secured by the Humane Society, and urged that there should be a Children's Shelter established for the temporary confinement of young children and that girls and children under fifteen should be tried apart from adult offenders.

Others who spoke favorably on the need of such a school were Inspector Archibald, School Inspector Hughes, Rev. Dr. Potts, Miss M. C. Elliot, and Mrs. John Harvie.