



The... Women's Canadian Historical Society of Toronto

(INCORPORATED)

Organized November 19th, 1895.

OFFICERS FOR 1899-1900.

President Mrs. Forsyth Grant.
Vice-Presidents Mrs. James Bain, Mrs. Edward Leigh.
Treasurer Miss E. Yates Farmer, 351 Huron Street, Toronto.
Secretary Miss Fitzgibbon, 94 Willcocks Street, Toronto.
Assistant Secretary Miss Vanoughnet.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mrs. Morrison, Miss Mickle, Mrs. S. G. Wood,
 Miss Beard, Mrs. Burwash, Mrs. H. Thompson.

REGULAR MEETINGS, FIRST THURSDAY IN THE
 MONTH EDUCATIONAL BUILDING, AT 3 P.M.

Regular Meeting.



HE regular meeting of the Society was held in the Educational Building on December 7th, at 3 p.m. There was a fair attendance of members and several visitors.

Mrs. Forsyth Grant, the new President, addressed the meeting. Briefly alluding to her connection with and interest in the society, during the absence of their late President, Lady Edgar, she had been called upon to act for her by virtue of her office as first Vice-President, therefore had practically done the work as President for some time, and thanked the members for electing her to the position. Mrs. Grant also spoke of the satisfactory increase in the membership and of the interest being taken in the society, of the work which might be done during the coming year in the discovery and preservation of original material to be found in private letters, family archives, etc.

A letter from Miss Mowat was read, in which she accepted with pleasure the Honorary Presidency of the Society. The President also announced that Miss Mowat had expressed great interest in the Society and its work, and hoped to be able to attend some of the meetings.

Miss Mickle, Secretary of the Committee having the proposed portrait of the first President and founder of the Society Mrs. S. A. Curzon, in charge, reported satisfactory

progress. A meeting had been held at 94 Willcocks Street, when it was decided that those who had expressed a wish to aid in this memorial to Mrs. Curzon and those who had been connected with her in her literary work should be given the opportunity to do so, though care should be taken that such intimation was in no sense an application for subscriptions as it was felt the memorial should be a labor of love. The response had been most gratifying. Tributes to the value of the late Mrs. S. A. Curzon's services to patriotism and literature as well as grateful acknowledgments of the privilege allowed them of contributing to so laudable a project had been received from Sir James Le Moine, Quebec; Dr. John Campbell, Montreal; Dr. Douglass Brynner, Ottawa; E. W. Thomson, Boston; Rev. Canon Bull, Lundy's Lane Historical Society, and others—all names well known to the literary world. A few representative extracts from these letters were read and Miss Mickle reported that there now remained only \$27 to be subscribed to make up the amount decided upon for the portrait, and asked that members who had not already done so would send in their contribution to her before the next meeting, January 4th.

The delegates named by the Executive to ascertain from the York Pioneers what steps had been taken to advance the work on the proposed monument to Governor Simcoe reported an invitation to attend their meeting of January 2nd, at 2 p.m. in the Canadian Institute, when full particulars would be given and plans discussed.

The printed copies of the annual report were laid on the table for distribution to the members.

A few copies of "Letters on the Doukhobor Settlement in Canada," by "Lally Bernard," were received, and the members asked to aid the work by purchasing a copy. It was a regret to the Executive that the appeal for aid in obtaining a loan for these interesting emigrants had to be refused, such applications not being within the limits of the consideration of an Historical Society as such, but all could help as individuals. Several of the members availed themselves of the opportunity to purchase a copy.

New members passed at the Executive—Mrs. Geo. Kerr, Mrs. W. Dineen, Mrs. Green, Miss Hamilton, Miss Teffy, Mrs. Lauder, Miss Hillyard.

The first paper of the season's course of Canadian History from 1759 to 1800 was read by the Secretary:

"War of the Conquest subsequent to the fall of Quebec."

Miss Edith Moodie, a granddaughter of the late Mrs. Susanna Moodie, but until recently a resident of Boston, recited the following

"Page of History," which, as the President remarked, was singularly *apropos* at the present moment, when the thoughts of all Canadians were with the British flag in the Transvaal. The lines were given with distinct enunciation and with great spirit. They appeared in the *Montreal Gazette* recently, and the signature—"Loyal Canadian"—had attracted the Secretary's attention. They are re-published in the Society's page of the HOME JOURNAL at the request of several of the members.

A PAGE OF HISTORY.

WHAT HAPPENED NINETEEN YEARS AGO.

On August 3rd, 1881, at 3 p.m., six hundred men marched through the street of Pretoria, in sad and solemn procession, as do those who are about to perform the last office for some dear friend snatched away from their midst by death. They wore all the trappings of woe. There the sable hearse draped in its funeral panoply; there the coffin; there the open grave. At its head stood, ready prepared, the slab with epitaph inscribed, so that all might know for whom the final ceremony was being performed. The procession halted, the hearse was tenderly and reverently relieved of its burden, and the coffin stood on the trestles of the yawning ditch. The eager multitude leaned forward to scan the epitaph, and with strained and tear-dimmed eyes they read:—

IN LOVING MEMORY
OF THE

BRITISH FLAG IN THE TRANSVAAL,
 WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE ON THE 2ND
 AUGUST, 1881.

IN HER FIFTH YEAR.

"In other climes none know thee but to love thee."

RESURGAM.

INVOCATION.

Come from the winds of heaven, O BREATHE!
 And touch this clay
 Laid in the winding robes of death
 From sight away.

Soft on the ashes fell the dust;
 The words were said:
 Deep through despair we held our trust—
 Breathe on our dead!

Come from the four great winds, and give
 Our mighty slain
 Life by thy breath, that it may live
 To rise again.

Low in the hour of Freedom's birth
 Oppression lies—
 Speak to the Flag entombed in earth
 And bid it rise!

Hark! from the distant veldt, at last
 The signal comes:
 Sternly the British line moves past
 With rolling drums.

Crashing, the cannon voices call
 Across the sea,
 Paying the debt of blood, for all
 The years to be.