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SIXTEENTH



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

WOMEN'S

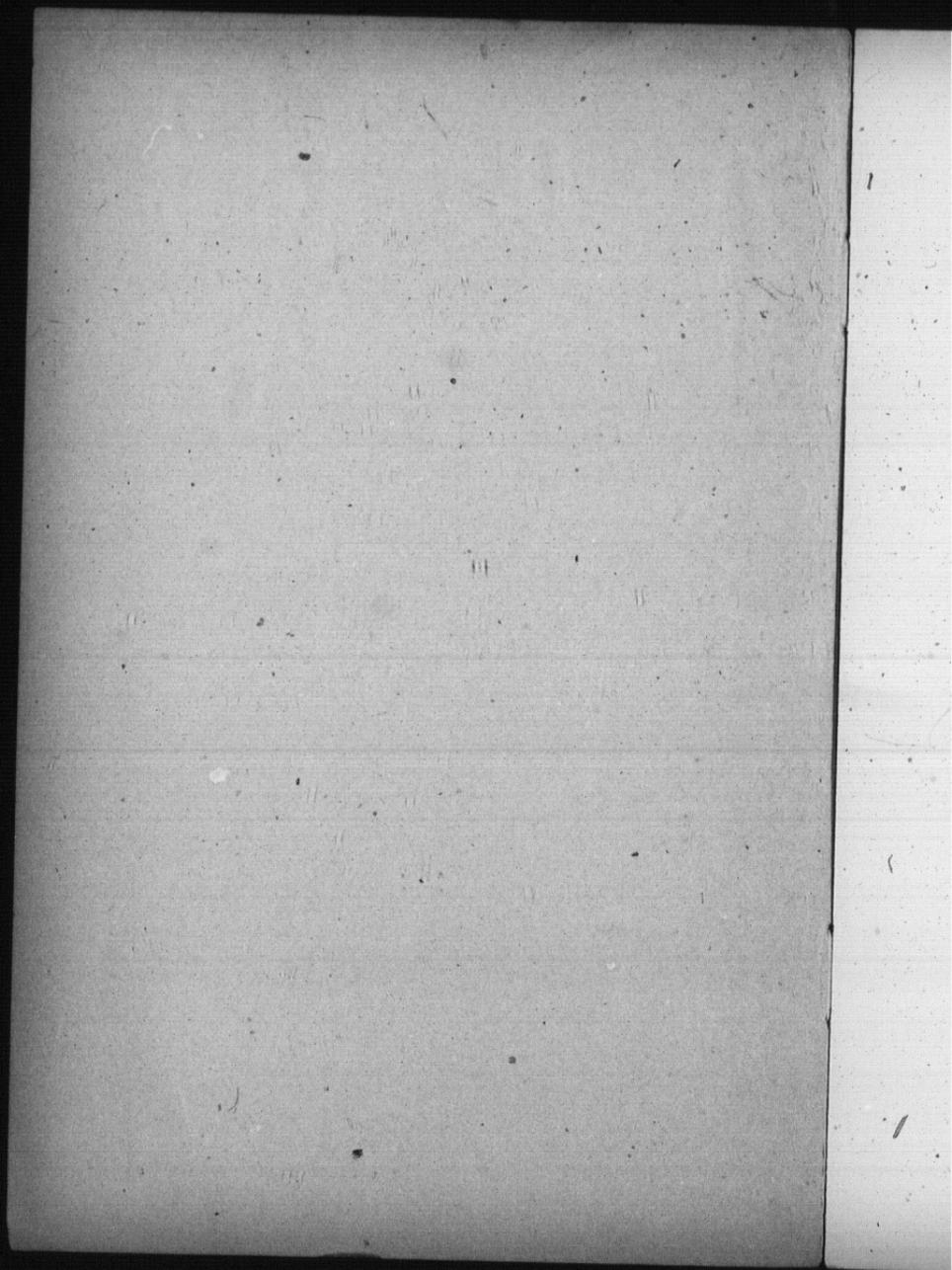
National Immigration Society

MONTREAL, CANADA.

Montreal:

MORTON PHILLIPS & CO., PRINTERS.

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*Under the Patronage of*  
 HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS LOUISE,  
 THE MARCHIONESS OF DUFFERIN AND AVA,  
 THE MARCHIONESS OF LANSDOWNE,  
 THE COUNTESS OF DERBY, THE COUNTESS OF ABERDEEN,  
 THE LADY FRANCES BALFOUR.

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DR. GRACE RITCHIE-ENGLAND.

## WOMEN'S Protective Immigration Society.

The Women's Protective Immigration Society held their Sixteenth Annual Meeting on Monday, Dec. 13th, 1897, at the Home, 84 Osborne Street. Mr. D. A. P. Watt occupied the chair, there being present the undermentioned ladies and gentlemen:—Sir William and Lady Hingston, Mrs. Greenshields, the Hon. Mrs. Waud, Mrs. Gillespie, Mrs. Cox, Mrs. A. A. Allan, Mrs. H. V. Meredith, Mrs. Botterell, Mrs. Cramp, Mrs. Reuben Taylor, Miss Moffatt, Miss Proctor, Miss Urquhart, Mrs. Barnard, Mrs. Cunliffe, the Rev. James Paterson, Rev. G. Abbott-Smith, Mr. John Hoolahan and Mr. Marquette.

The Committee of the Women's Protective Immigration Society have pleasure in presenting to their friends and the public their Sixteenth Annual Report:—

185 immigrants have passed through the Home during the past year.

122 English, 21 Irish, 15 Scotch, 2 Germans, 24 Swedes, 1 Finlander.

97 Church of England, 36 Roman Catholics, 13 Scotch Presbyterians, 1 Wesleyan, 6 Baptists, 6 Methodists, 26 Lutherans.

57 immigrants of previous years returned to the Home.

Seven parties, comprising 86 young women were sent out through the United British Women's Immigration Association, by the Hon. Mrs. Joyce, St. John's Croft, Winchester, under the care of a travelling matron.

Two girls were sent out by Mrs. Foster, of Bristol.

A party of eight Swedish girls passed through the Home for domestic service in the North-West, their situations having

been previously found for them by the Swedish Agent in Montreal

Five immigrants of former years returned to England—one to be married, two returned to their parents, two in ill health. None of these were assisted with money from the Society.

The number of immigrants registered in the books for the present year will be found slightly larger than that of last year. This is encouraging considering the many causes which have tended to diminish female immigration from Great Britain to Canada.

Some of these causes are the greater demand for labor at home (especially for domestic servants), owing to better times and the continued cessation of assisted passages, and as long as so much assistance and encouragement are given by other colonies, this result must be expected. The Committee, however, have much satisfaction in reporting that the class of girls received during the past season has been unusually good. This is especially noticed with regard to those selected for emigration by the United British Women's Emigration Association. Not a single complaint of bad behaviour or of ill health has been recorded, and the good characters and references brought out by each immigrant have been proved to be well deserved by her conduct and capabilities. A large proportion of these numbers was passed on to Winnipeg and the North-West, their destination being arranged for before they left England. They remained for one night for rest and refreshment at the Home before continuing the long inland journey.

The advantages of a Home for women only, and controlled by women, cannot be overestimated, and are fully recognised by those societies in Great Britain who entrust their girls to the care of this Society.

In March, Mr. James Smart, Deputy Minister of the Interior, visited the Home with Mr. McCreary, Commissioner on Immigration, from Winnipeg. They expressed satisfaction in what they saw of the work, and Mr. Smart kindly promised to use his influence in the interest of the Society in future. In

November, Mr. Frank Pedley, Superintendent of Immigration, paid an official visit of inspection to the Women's Protective Immigration Society's Home.

Miss Proctor and Miss Urquhart brought out a party of twelve Roman Catholic girls on the Laurentian on May 31st. These were received into the Home until situations were found for them by Miss Proctor. These ladies, representing the Ste. Anne's Emigration Society, met the Committee in June last to discuss the possibility of working with them in assisting the emigration of Roman Catholic girls from the east end of London. Miss Proctor has, however, since established a Home of her own for young girls, in connection with the Ste. Anne's Society and other societies in London, and the Committee earnestly wish them every success in their admirable work.

During the past year, the Girls' Home of Welcome, 272 Assiniboine Avenue, Winnipeg, has been established through the generosity of an English lady, for the purpose of providing safe and comfortable lodgings for young women passing through Winnipeg, as well as for those seeking employment in the city. The Committee have had great pleasure in meeting Miss Fowler, Superintendent of the Home of Welcome, and hope that good results may come from their association with her in that part of their work which concerns female emigration to the North-West. The want of proper protection for girls in the newly settled parts of the country has long been felt by the Society, and they therefore look forward with the greatest satisfaction to Miss Fowler's valuable co-operation with them. The Girl's Home of Welcome is non-sectarian, and is worked on the same plan as the Women's Protective Society of Montreal.

Visits were received from Miss Williams, President of the Girls' Friendly Society in the Diocese of St. Asaph, and from Miss Fraser, Brentwood, Essex.

At the meeting of the National Council for Women in Halifax, last June, a resolution was carried endorsing the scheme of the Women's Protective Immigration Society for furthering the immigration of women to Canada, and the local Councils were

urged to form Committees. Two delegates from the Montreal Local Council were appointed in October to co-operate with the sub-committee of the Women's Protective Immigration Society, which is now engaged in the development of the scheme. Negotiations have been opened, both with the Local Councils throughout Canada, and also with philanthropic agencies in England, and with individuals in the countries from which it is hoped to attract emigrants. This last is the most difficult part of the work, and will need much careful attention and effort. An attempt will be made to form Committees in some of the principal seaport towns from whence the emigrants leave, to ensure their being safely and comfortably housed, and to see to the ship board arrangements on the passage to England. The Society feels confident that should the Government be prepared to offer assisted passages to selected emigrants, they would then be able to attract many suitable women, and that with the new arrangement they could ensure them a protected passage from their own home to any part of Canada.

The Secretary was absent for a few months in England, during which time her work was ably performed by Miss H. E. Hall, who has kindly consented to continue her interest in the work by becoming a member of the Board of Management.

The Committee have every reason to be satisfied with the arrangements of the household under the efficient management of Mrs. Mahoney, the matron, who has now held the position for fifteen years.

Miss Turnbull, one of the travelling matrons for the United British Women's Emigration Association, brought five of the parties to the Home during the season. The Committee have pleasure in testifying to her conscientious and excellent management in looking after the welfare of the girls under her care. She is always a most welcome guest.

The President, Mrs. Gillespie, declined re-election for the coming year, feeling that after seven years a change would be for the good of the Society, and infuse greater life into the work. In relinquishing office, Mrs. Gillespie takes with her the sincere

regrets of the board, and their warm appreciation of her unflinching interest in the Society and her untiring efforts to further its usefulness during her long tenure of office. The Committee have reason to congratulate themselves on the acceptance of the office by Mrs. John Cox, who was unanimously elected at the last meeting.

The Committee express their deep regret at the death of their valued friend and fellow worker, Mrs. Brakenridge, whose kind services will be greatly missed by them.

The Rev. James Patterson, Presbyterian city missionary, has visited the Home at frequent intervals, and receives from the Secretary the addresses of all Scotch girls placed in Montreal.

When each immigrant is placed in her first situation the clergyman of the parish continues to receive a notice with the girl's address.

The officials of the Steamship Lines and Railway Companies continue their kind assistance in arranging for the comfort of the immigrants.

The Managers wish especially to thank Mr. Hoolahan, the Dominion Immigration Agent, and Mr. Marquette, the Provincial Immigration Agent, for their valuable co-operation.

It is with deepest sorrow the Committee hear the sad news of the death of Dr. Kirkpatrick. His great kindness, prompt attention in cases of illness, can never be forgotten by them.

The whole respectfully submitted,

EVA VOSBURGH,

*Secretary.*

The Chairman in presenting the Report to the meeting spoke encouragingly of the work of the Society. He considered that the most important work of immigration was the immigration of entire families, next to that was the immigration of single men and women, and that women immigrants were probably of most value to the Dominion. The third branch of immigration,

that of children, had been subjected to much criticism, and could not be said to have proved very satisfactory.

Miss Moffatt moved that the Report be adopted, Mr. Abbott-Smith seconded the adoption of the Report and alluded with approval to the Society's new plan for organizing women's immigration throughout the Dominion.

The Rev. James Patterson spoke on the wide usefulness of the Society, taking in all creeds and nationalities, also to the benefit of selected parties being sent out under the care of Matrons, and as the Society was a Government institution it ought to receive the help and encouragement of the community.

Mrs. Cox spoke of the need of a branch of the Travellers Aid Society in Montreal and stated that while the Society undertakes to meet all women immigrants arriving by Canadian Steamers, it does not feel able to look after single women other than immigrants who pass through our Stations and who stand greatly in need of such help as is given by the Travellers Aid Society in the principal large cities of England and the United States.

At the conclusion of the Report, Sir William Hingston adverted to the spiritual as well as the material advantages the immigrants gained by their connection with such a home, and mentioned that every unmarried woman immigrant was a certain source of wealth to the country that was not to be despised from an economic point of view.

Mr. John Hoolihan, Dominion Government Immigration Agent, quoted a report sent to the Department of the Interior anent the Society's work, in which the said work was stated to be eminently satisfactory.

Miss Proctor spoke of the need of legislation for child immigration for the Province of Quebec as being very unsatisfactory, as in many cases the children were not looked after at all and suffered much hardship and cruelty. She wanted to see such children in this province enjoy the same protection from the law as those in Ontario.

Mr. Marquette was able to say that the Quebec Legislature had before them a bill for the regulation of child immigration in the Province which would meet the case as fully as the law in force in Ontario.

The election of officers resulted as follows:—President, Mrs. Cox; First Vice-President, Mrs. Gillespie; Second Vice-President, Mrs. Cramp; Third Vice-President, Mrs. Reuben Taylor; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Vosburgh; Board of Management—Mrs. Hugh Allan, Mrs. A. A. Allan, Mrs. Botterell, Mrs. Barnard, Mrs. Aspinwall-Howe, Mrs. Robert Mackay, Mrs. Vincent Meredith, Mrs. Sutherland Taylor, Mrs. Shaughnessy, Mrs. G. Abbott-Smith, Hon. Mrs. Waud, Mrs. Cunliffe, Mrs. A. Whitney, and Miss H. E. Hall.

A hearty vote of thanks having been tendered to the Society's officers for their praiseworthy work during the past year, the meeting adjourned.

## CHANGE OF NAME.

At a meeting of the Committee, held on January 10th, 1898, it was unanimously resolved that the name of the Society in future should be the "Women's National Immigration Society," and that due notice of the change of name should be sent to the Government, to all kindred Societies and published in the local newspapers

