

With the Committee's Compliments

EIGHTEENTH
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

WOMEN'S

National Immigration Society

MONTREAL, CANADA.



1836

Montreal:
MORTON, PHILLIPS & CO., PRINTERS.

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

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PROFESSOR COX

Referees

THE RIGHT REV. THE LORD BISHOP OF MONTREAL
THE REV. JAMES BARCLAY, D.D.

THE REV. CANON NORTON, D.D.
THE REV. J. EDGAR HILL, D.D.

THE REV. PROF. COUSSIRAT

Solicitors

MESSRS. DUNLOP & LYMAN

Visiting Physician

DR. GRACE RITCHIE-ENGLAND

WOMEN'S National Immigration Society.

The Women's National Immigration Society held their Eighteenth Annual meeting on Monday, December 11th, 1899, at the Home, 87 Osborne Street. The meeting was presided over by Dr. Roddick, M.P., and besides a number of ladies there were present The Rev. Professor Abbot-Smith, Rev. James Patterson, Mr. Hugh Allan, Mr. D. A. P. Watt; Messrs. John Hoolahan, Dominion Government immigration agent; A. Regimbal, assistant immigration agent, and E. Marquette, Provincial Government immigration agent.

The following report was read by the Secretary:—

The Committee of the Women's National Immigration Society have much pleasure in presenting to their friends and the public their Eighteenth Annual Report.

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

139 English, 3 Welsh, 1 German, 2 French, 36 Irish, 5 Swedes, 1 Austrian, 1 Norwegian, 20 Scotch, 1 Belgian, 3 from Newfoundland.

116 Church of England, 36 Roman Catholics, 25 Presbyterians, 10 Church of Ireland, 3 Baptists, 3 Methodists, 5 Wesleyans, 4 Congregationalists, 6 Lutherans, 1 Unitarian, 1 Jewess, 1 Christadelphian.

40 Girls of former years returned to the Home to board until replaced.

Eight parties under the care of a Travelling Matron were sent out by the Hon. Mrs. Joyce, St. Johns' Croft, Winchester, through the auspices of the United British Women's Emigration

Association, comprising in all 121 young women—41 for Montreal, 80 for situations in Western Canada.

9 girls returned to England.

5 to the United States.

Mrs. Sanford, of Winnipeg, brought out a party of 18 girls on June 14 from Ireland, all provided with situations in the West.

The total number of immigrants is less than last year, but it maintains the average. The prosperous condition of England at the present time makes it easy to get good wages, and an attractive life. But it is well to bear in mind that the African war will still further reduce the proportion of men to women, and so accentuate the difference already existing between this country and the Motherland in respect to the balance of the sexes.

We have again to note the large number of women going direct to the North West. While this is in many ways desirable, we again point out that skilled servants are most in demand in Eastern Canada, and especially in Montreal; that the highest wages are given in the large Eastern cities or in the cities of British Columbia, and that the North West needs a rougher kind of labor for the most part, though the increasing prosperity of the farmers is now causing a demand for a certain number of capable lady helps and governesses.

Of the parties sent out by the United British Women's Emigration Society, a larger number than usual remained in Montreal. Though some of these were families, there were many excellent servants and the usual sprinkling of girls who had not qualified in self control before leaving England. Experience has gradually improved some, and others continue to make demands on the good offices of the Home as mediator.

It is not to be expected that we could obtain only perfect specimens of any class.

We are glad to notice an increased regularity in the repayments of loans, a great test of the solidity of the immigrants.

All the arrangements in connection with these parties are well conceived, and equally well carried out under the care of

their excellent and experienced matrons, who earn the gratitude and affection of those whom they escort.

The immigrants who returned to England did so principally for family reasons.

The Canadian Government did not continue its experiment of last year, when Mrs. Livingstone was sent to Scotland to collect women emigrants for domestic service. The immigrants are believed to have given satisfaction, but the experiment was considered too costly. This year Mrs. Sandford of Winnipeg undertook a similar expedition at her own expense, but with the countenance of the Government. She showed much enterprise and brought over a very good set of girls, and it is to be hoped that the Government will realize that a personal expedition of this kind is the most effective way of persuading women to emigrate. To be personally conducted to a country by one of its women who has gained your confidence is a wonderful help to the would-be emigrant.

In regard to foreign immigration, letters were exchanged with Sweden and Finland. In both cases the ladies wrote that they were most unwilling to persuade their countrywomen to emigrate, but that they were glad to know of our Society in case they should hear of any proposing to do so.

In the case of Finland the writer expressed the foreboding that owing to the changed political situation, emigration on a large scale might be forced on the nation, when they might be glad to avail themselves of all the facilities we could offer.

At present it does not seem possible to take any further active steps.

The joint Sub-Committee of the Montreal Local Council and the Women's National Immigration Society undertook last spring to show its practical sympathy with the persecuted Russian Doukhobors, and \$500 were collected from Montreal citizens and quantities of warm clothing. The money was spent in buying milk cows for the women and children, and the clothing proved most useful for a certain section of the exiles who had suffered most persecution and loss. This Committee is again occupied with an effort to raise a loan to provide material, spin-

ning wheels and looms to give occupation to the women through the long winter months, and to enable them to do something towards the support of the families during this year, which is the most trying time they will pass through.

We are glad to acknowledge the help afforded by the co-operation of the Local Councils in our immigration work.

The other Councils from time to time enable us to realize that we are justified in promising our immigrants friendly counsel and aid in any part of Canada.

Miss Fowler's Home at Winnipeg is now a recognised institution. It has received a promise of a yearly Government grant of \$500, and a large contribution from the Dominion and Provincial Governments towards the Building Fund. It is hoped that a permanent building will be erected during the coming year.

The Matron continues to be informed by telegram from the Dominion Government Agent at the ports of landing, of the departure by train of single women for Montreal and the West who require help, and is thus enabled to meet the train and render them assistance or bring them to the Home. This is the share we feel able to contribute towards the work of a Travellers' Aid Society, which is so much needed in our city, but which does not yet exist.

Our plan of work continues the same. The girls on being first placed in service are introduced to the clergyman of the denomination to which they belong. The Rev. James Patterson, Presbyterian City Missionary, frequently visits the home, interviews the Scotch immigrants, or receives the address of girls placed in Montreal.

We have great pleasure in again thanking Miss Laidlaw, who in company with other kind friends visit the Home every Sunday evening during the winter after church to have a pleasant hour with the girls. We feel that this homely and friendly gathering does much to brighten our girls and to keep them in touch with the influence of the Home.

The Christmas party of February last was well attended by the girls of some years past, and it is interesting to learn from them of their successful and independent lives.

We are glad to have been of service to one of the women immigrants saved from the wreck of the Scotsman, who spent some days at the Home recovering strength before she was transferred to Miss Brennan, to whom she was recommended. But we regret deeply the loss of a poor girl, Rose Weavers, who was drowned by the capsizing of the first life boat that was launched. She was recommended to the Home, and her friends in England were communicated with and all possible details of the voyage was sent to them. She was a good girl and a promising emigrant.

In conclusion, we wish to express our thanks to Dr. Grace Ritchie England, our Honorary Physician, for her kind attention to our girls, and to Mr. Hoolahan, Mr. Marquette, and the Sub-Agents, who afford us all possible help and co-operation in our work, and we would acknowledge with many thanks many substantial gifts to the Home, especially that of Mr. Hector MacKenzie, a most generous donation of household linen.

Mrs. Hugh Allan, quilts and linen.

Mrs. A. A. Allan, rocker.

Mrs. Gillespie, vegetables during the summer.

The whole respectfully submitted,

EVA VOSBURGH,

Secretary.

Mr. D. A. P. Watt, in moving that the reports be adopted and printed, congratulated the ladies on their past year's work, and considering how they had distributed the \$1,000 allowed them by the Dominion Government, he hoped that it would be materially increased in the near future, so that they could extend their good work. He expressed a wish that some means could be devised that the young girls coming out to Canada could be protected as they are in Canada. The United States are careful of this protection, and as we are competing with them it is the duty of Canada to look after her female immigrants.

Mr. Hugh Allan seconded the adoption of the reports.

Miss Mallock, representing the Ste. Anne's Society, made a few interesting remarks. She spoke of the difficulty of getting the right class of young women to come to the country.

Remarks were made by Messrs. Hoolahan and Marquette, the latter observing that the chief reason of the difficulty in obtaining domestics and inducing girls to immigrate was that the rates of passage were too high, and that it was almost hopeless, in the face of this fact and of the state aid rendered to such immigrants by certain of the Australian colonies, to bring over girls for domestic service. Girls could travel from Bristol to Australia for a guinea, while the fare to Canada was twenty-four dollars. He suggested that the Dominion Government again introduce the system of assisted passages to such immigrants as were worthy of them.

Miss Derrick alluded to a plan in which the Women's National Immigration Society has been interested, for the employment of educated women to undertake domestic work by the day. She states her experience of ladies employed as domestic servants in England, an experiment which has proved very successful. She regretted that Vancouver had not yet attempted the proposal of a temporary boarding house for ladies so employed, and expressed a hope that it might be possible to carry out such an experiment in Montreal.

Mrs. Cox then spoke on the subject of the Doukhobors, and said the joint sub-committee of the Montreal Local Council and the Women's National Immigration Society undertook last spring to show its practical sympathy with the persecuted Russian Doukhobors, and \$500 was collected from Montreal citizens and quantities of warm clothing. The money was spent in buying milk cows for the women and children, and the clothing proved most useful for a certain section of the exiles who had suffered most persecution and loss. This committee is again occupied with an effort to raise a loan fund to provide material, spinning wheels and looms, to give occupation to the women through the long winter months, and to enable them to do something towards the support of the families during this year, which is likely to be the most trying time they will pass through.

The Rev. James Patterson then moved that the following ladies be elected Office-bearers for the ensuing year:—President, Mrs. John Cox; First Vice-President, Mrs. Gillespie; Second Vice-President, Mrs. Andrew A. Allan; Third Vice-President, Mrs. E. S. Clouston; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Percy P. Vosburgh.

In seconding the adoption of above names, the Rev. Abbot-Smith spoke of the need of a Travellers' Aid Society for the special

purpose of finding out young women coming to Montreal, and thus preventing possible evil.

In closing the meeting Dr. Roddick spoke encouragingly of the prospects of immigration in the future. The speaker was of the opinion that if the Government would do something about assisted passages the steamship companies would also help. Dr. Roddick expressed himself in favor of the immigration of women, and thought the Government should lay aside a large amount for the purpose. As a member of Parliament, the speaker promised to do all in his power to bring the matter before the House of Commons and induce the Government to give assistance. Dr. Roddick closed his remarks with words of appreciation and encouragement to those who were doing good work.

The meeting then adjourned.



38. THE WOMEN'S NATIONAL IMMIGRATION SOCIETY IN ACCOUNT WITH THE TREASURER. C.

1899.	Nov. 30.	To paid the following, viz. :	101 71	By Balance brought forward..\$	10 00
"	"	Meat.....\$	45 18	By Received the following, viz.:	1,000 00
"	"	Vegetables.....	175 31	" Dominion Gov't Grant.....	500 00
"	"	Groceries.....	53 62	" Provincial	320 51
"	"	Bread.....	48 16	" Board.....	40 50
"	"	Milk.....	450 00	" Fees.....	31 50
"	"	Rent.....	515 00	" Subscriptions.....	56 03
"	"	Salaries.....	145 29	" Loans Returned.....	7 40
"	"	Wages.....	97 00	" Interest.....	
"	"	House Expenses.....	94 75		
"	"	Fuel.....	10 81		
"	"	Stamps.....	27 86		
"	"	Stationery.....	29 00		
"	"	Water Tax.....	25 25		
"	"	Telephone.....	5 00		
"	"	Insurance.....	5 00		
"	"	Ice.....	13 45		
"	"	Carp'r and Painter.....	17 71		
"	"	Plumber.....	82 82		
"	"	Cab Hire.....	4 10		
"	"	Gas.....	2 00		
"	"	Subscription.....	2 00		
"	"	Tuning Piano.....	5 37		
"	"	Advertising.....	20 00		
"	"	Advanc'd R'y Fares.....	7 60		
"	"	Lease.....	1 25		
"	"	Medicine.....	2 96		
"	"	Interest on a d- vances from Bank.....	11 35		
"	"	Overdrafts on Bank in 1898.....	26 29		
"	"	Balance.....	\$1,965 94		

1899.	Dec. 1.	By balance brought down.....	26 29
		(Represented by cash in Bank)...	\$ 6 29
		“ “ on hand..	20 00

Examined and found correct.
WILLIAM ROBERTSON.

E. E.
MONTREAL, 6th December, 1899.