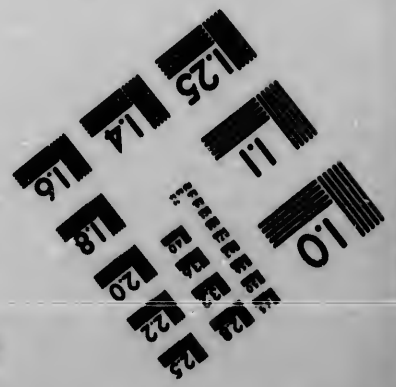
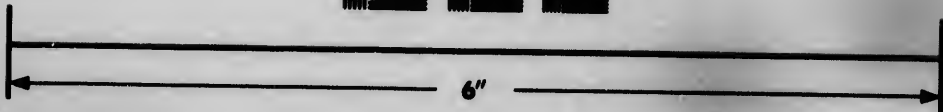
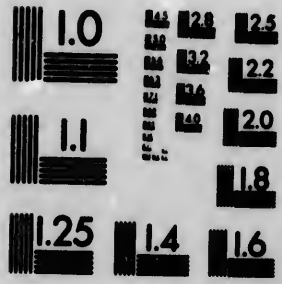


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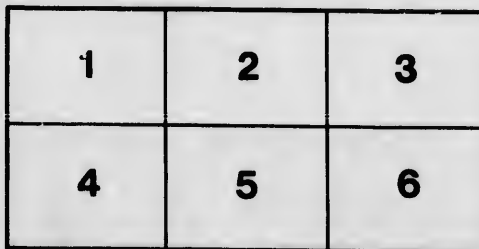
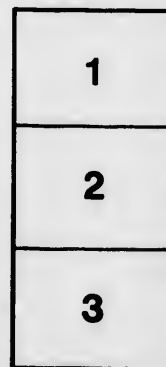
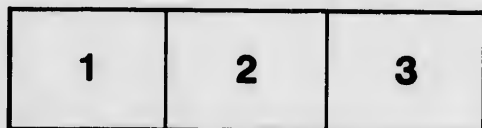
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National Council of Women

OF CANADA.

2
MEETING

- TO INAUGURATE THE -

Local Council

- OF -

VICTORIA AND VANCOUVER ISLAND,

- ON -

Thursday, November 8, 1894.

ADDRESS

- BY -

Her Excellency the Countess of Aberdeen.

VICTORIA :

The Colonist Printing and Publishing Co., Ltd.

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National Council of Women OF CANADA.

At a Public Meeting, held in the Victoria Theatre, Victoria, B. C., on Thursday, November 8th, the following address was delivered by Her Excellency, Lady Aberdeen:

The Countess of Aberdeen on rising to speak was greeted with much applause, and her address was listened to with the utmost interest throughout. She said: I am very grateful to Mrs. Grant for the kind words with which she has introduced me this evening, and I have further to thank both her and the ladies who have worked with her for the great trouble which they have taken in organizing this meeting, and in arranging that representatives of the various societies and organizations in which women are concerned should be present here. I know that all these arrangements give infinite trouble, but they also make all the difference. And I must thank you ladies, who have been good enough to come out and meet me this evening in such large numbers in response to the invitation of those who have asked me to tell you the aims and working of the National Council of Women of Canada. (Hear, hear.)

As for the gentlemen, will you forgive me if I ignore your presence here to-night, if I try, as best I can, to forget it. I look upon you only in the light of necessary evils in your capacity of escort to the ladies. But all the same that does not detract from the honor you have done me in being willing to be present in any capacity. Doubtless no movement affecting a considerable part of the community can prosper without the cordial support of both men and women. I trust that in this movement the women of Victoria will be able to depend on the approval of their husbands, fathers and brothers. Certain it is that I have good reason to be grateful for the encouragement and actual co-operation which has been given to this Council by the men of this country during its early stages. My

own husband is an enthusiastic supporter, and is only not here to-night because he knows how much I dislike speaking before him. And then the Prime Minister, Sir John Thompson, Mr. Laurier, the Lieutenant-Governors of the various provinces, the bishops, the clergy of the different churches and the members of the press have all stood by us. And this is a very great matter, for however good we may feel a movement to be, we do not like to go into it if the men in our own homes are against it, or even if they only shake their heads and say "What next—what's the world coming to!" (Applause.) There is likely to be a good deal of criticism of this movement, and I would earnestly ask you gentlemen spectators, though you are our critics in general, to try to understand our objects and to weigh the matter well before you oppose the Council or divide it.

You will agree with us as to our ultimate objects, I know—unity, an endeavor to communicate mutual strength and sympathy between all women workers, and to stimulate all work for the good of others. Some may say that they do not see how the Council is going to do all this. Let me ask them if they have a scheme of their own. If not it is surely a solemn responsibility to try to hinder those who are at heart trying to do God's work and to reach after his ideal of unity.

But now ladies, I must set myself to my work and try to explain to you something of this National Council of Women of Canada, which is intended by its authors and promoters to forge, as it were, a golden link uniting all the women workers from ocean to ocean in bonds of sisterhood for the high and holy work which they are called on to undertake by virtue of their common womanhood, and their common responsibilities in this far country.

I am afraid I must ask you to bear with me while I go through the dry details of our

organization. But before doing this I would like to remove some misapprehensions concerning the Council, by stating what it is not.

It is not a political association. (Hear, hear.) Some English newspapers stated at one time that I was organizing a political association of women throughout Canada for the purpose of turning out the present government. Well, ladies, quite apart from the fact that I myself have forgotten for some time what politics mean, this Council has nothing to do with politics; if there existed a political association of women in the Dominion they could be represented on it.

The Council is not a trades union, although trades unions or friendly societies of women can be represented on it. It is not a temperance association, although temperance societies can be and are represented on it. It is not a society for revolutionizing the relation of mistresses and servants, although we hope that the present difficulties in connection with domestic service will receive much consideration. (Applause.) It is not a religious body only, nor a philanthropic body only, nor an educational body only. It is none of these things, and yet it is all of them, as that I think is the keynote of the object of this meeting. We desire to form a body which will, as it were, focus the work and thought of women in Victoria—the work and thought of all the different activities being carried on. That is the object of the National Council of Women of Canada, and it is on the same principle that all the local councils throughout Canada are intended to be formed.

I have been long enough here to hear a little of all that is being attempted in this city for the good of others—not only the various church societies for home and mission work, but the educational work represented by the teachers' association, by the kindergarten, by the Sunday school teachers, the temperance work, the rescue work, the work of that beautiful society the King's Daughters, whose very name is an inspiration; the good and useful work projected by the new Young Women's Christian Association; the hospital work of the noble sisters of St. Ann's Convent, and in the other hospitals, the Nurses' Home, the musical and artistic efforts that are being made, that delightful Alexandra Club, which I am sure will be of so much use to the ladies of Victoria, the work for the poor by our Jewish sisters and much else.

But let us go back and ask, How has this come about? Did it exist fifteen years ago? or even ten or twelve ago? We find that great progress has taken place during the last few years in women's work, and opportunities for good in all the countries of the world, and we can observe this fact in small outlying places, as well as in large cities and centres of population. The fact is, ladies, that women have found out that "union is strength." There used to be a sort of idea that women could not work together. We have heard on all sides that women had some sort of inherent incapacity for working together, but I think that that assertion has been pretty well contradicted of late, although still we need a great extension of the principle of co-operation; and those of us who have been workers know how difficult it is to induce others without experience in co-operation to take the first step. The first step taken we soon realize all the advantages which come from loyal help and support, and how much the discipline of co-operation assists us in our work, and how our own character is developed as we learn to take as well as to give; to accept the will and the decision of those who have most experience and authority amongst us; to carry out loyally the decision of the majority. So this tendency towards co-operation and union has been shown in all the various directions of work, and hence the outcome is all these different societies and auxiliaries, and institutions which are managed by various committees. You here know well the benefits which such organizations have brought to your city. That inclination is daily strengthened. (Applause.)

Not only do we find that these societies exist but there is a tendency between those of a kindred character to unite; in fact, I think we realize that the work of the different societies resembles, to a great extent, the work of specialists in the medical profession. One medical man will take up the study of the eye, another that of the ear, and another that of some other portion of the body; but they all find the necessity of coming together now and again and taking into consideration the care of the general health of the body if success is to be insured. The women workers of the place take up the various forms of work; some for the care of little children, some for the aged and infirm, others for the sick, and again for various reforms, prison reform, rescue and preventive work, and so on. Each of these is every-

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where the work of specialists and we know
 how engrossing such work becomes; how
 those who are the most eager and enthusias-
 tic in the work become engrossed in the par-
 ticular line to which they have devoted
 themselves and thus naturally lose the op-
 portunity of knowing what is going on in
 other lines of work.

But if we are to carry on our own line of
 work successfully, we must of necessity un-
 derstand the general scope and the general
 wants of the lives to which we are devoting
 ourselves. If our work lies, for instance,
 specially among children we need to think
 of the various influences which tend to
 mould the child's life, and which will mould
 it in the future, as regards body, mind,
 and soul; the different stages of its life. We
 need therefore to take a wide view to know
 more than our own particular line of work,
 and so we feel from time to time that we
 need to come in touch with the general
 work which is being done by others. I
 think it is a feeling of this sort that has
 brought about these councils for women, or,
 as they are called in England, Unions of
 Women Workers. (Applause)

I need not trouble you, I think, with any
 history as to how the Women's National
 Council of Canada came into existence.
 It is pretty well known now that it
 is practically the outcome of the
 Women's Congress at Chicago last
 year, where the women present were
 urged to form Councils in all their different
 countries. I will content myself with giv-
 ing you a short account of its work. The
 plan has been to form local councils in any
 given centres of population. These local
 councils have been formed by various so-
 cieties and institutions, organizations of all
 sorts being represented in a central common
 body. Each society which federates is re-
 presented on a central committee by its
 own president. These form the executive of
 the Council, to which are added a few of-
 ficers. This central body is then able to
 carry out whatever is needed to promote the
 objects of the Council. I will read to you
 the preamble of the National Council which
 I think will give you its aims:

"We, women of Canada, sincerely believ-
 ing that the best good of our homes and na-
 tion will be advanced by our own greater
 unity of thought, sympathy, and purpose,
 and that an organized movement of women
 will best conserve the highest good of the
 family and the state, do hereby band our-

selves together to further the application of
 the Golden Rule to society, custom and law."

I think that preamble really contains the
 whole gist of the matter. That is a greater
 unity and the furtherance of the Golden
 Rule in all the relations of life. You will
 ask how this end is to be accomplished. The
 executive committee of which I have spoken
 in each council generally arranges from time
 to time to have some general meeting or con-
 ference at which all these societies which
 join are represented. These give in a short
 account of their own particular work, and,
 in addition, a paper or papers are read by
 ladies who have been invited to discuss
 some special subject of general interest to
 the community.

You will see that the mere fact of the
 different departments of work being carried
 on by many different sections of thought
 and brought before the public, in itself must
 tend to this unity of thought, sympathy
 and purpose, of which we have been
 speaking. To begin with, it enables
 the public to acquire some knowledge
 of the work that is being done, and you
 will know, ladies, how even in a compara-
 tively small place people are often unaware
 of what is being done by the different
 societies and institutions. Surely that in
 itself is a very great benefit. But it is well
 for us that we should know what is being
 accomplished; it will draw out our sympa-
 thy; it will widen our charity to know of
 the noble work that is being accomplished
 by other bodies—bodies against which we
 may perhaps have had some prejudice; it
 will deepen our faith and we shall realize
 that we can learn from as well as give to
 them. It is a wonderful lesson to ourselves
 and it sends us to our homes rejoicing to
 know how God is working by many and
 divers means for His own good end. (Ap-
 plause.)

It gives these institutions opportunities
 for bringing their various needs forward—
 their needs either for material help or for
 more workers; or it is the means of draw-
 ing into actual work some of the
 younger women who have not yet
 found their vocation, but who are
 stirred up by hearing what is
 being done by others. Then it enables to
 be brought before the public any general
 need in the city or district—some general
 want which all citizens of the place are con-
 cerned in relieving, and which if they deter-
 mine together ought to be done, will un-
 doubtedly be taken in hand by those who

can meet such need. These are, I think, the chief benefits which come to any particular district through the establishment of such a council. I cannot give you any hard and fast lines on which these councils shall develop. They are intended to suit the needs of each place where they are set on foot, and if the council has been formed by those who are working—by those who know the people and their needs, then it will doubtless fulfil its objects and will also further the great work of bringing us all nearer together.

These local councils are represented on the National Council of Canada, which meets once a year in different places in the Dominion. It met last year at Ottawa. The different local councils, eight or nine in number, besides the nationally organized societies, were then represented. Ladies from different places read valuable papers on subjects relating to their special work or on subjects of general interest. These national councils have been formed not only in Canada and the United States, but in many countries in Europe and are intended to join an International Council which meets every five years, again extending the bond of a common sisterhood in work. You will see that there are vast possibilities in this work.

There are doubtless dangers also, for we are but human, and when we in this way gather together representatives of all sections of thought we know that there must be dangers, but we believe that this movement towards real unity—this coming to know one another better and to realize this common responsibility which is ours must tend for good both for ourselves individually and for the communities amongst which we live. And if we begin to think of some of the general subjects on which we can unite—some of the subjects in which all women of whatever church or denomination or section of the community may combine—surely there seem to be very many such subjects in which they are all deeply interested. First of all we must place the home.

We all here agree that the home is woman's first mission. But what does that involve? Sometimes it is spoken of as if home duties meant a narrow life, a circumscribed life, but if we ask ourselves what home means to each of us—what it should mean to each of us—we shall see that it by no means involves a narrow life. If we ask ourselves each of us to

think out what would be the ideal for ourselves, each in our own position in our own home, of what we could do and be, and if we could rise to that ideal of character, and influence, and life, and self-sacrifice, you will at once see how much it means and how much we have to learn. Sometimes people speak as though the power to be home makers came by instinct to women, but do not we know—we, who are in our homes as wives, mothers, sisters, daughters—that this is by no means the case? Do we not each of us realize our want of training and of knowledge in our contact with other lives, on which so much depends? (Cannot we in these general conferences and meetings which are to bring us together as women who are wanting to fulfil their duty in the world—cannot we specially confer together on some of these matters which touch the very inmost springs of our lives? (Hear, hear.) Do we not need to know much more of how to train our children—how to study our children—to understand the different characters of those little ones that have been confided to us? and whom we often damage because we do not understand and enter into the individuality, the different characteristics of each one, and the different training needed to fit them for their work in life. Cannot these subjects bearing upon the relations of parents and children be made, as I trust they will be, most important subjects in your councils? Most valuable papers were read in these topics at the first meeting of the Council at Ottawa, and I trust we shall never meet without taking up this subject and endeavoring to help one another to understand what it means to be home-makers in the deepest and broadest sense. And even as regards the bodily wants, the sanitation of our homes, the care of the sick, the prevention of illness, the knowledge of the value of various foods and their preparation, are we all trained as women to know about these things and understand them? All these subjects have a general interest for us and touch us all very nearly. They are subjects which can be discussed with much help and profit and to which each of us doubtless could give her quota of experience.

Again, in speaking of our homes another subject has been suggested at our council, the question of domestic service. It is a subject which is much on the thoughts of women everywhere, not only here but at home. It needs our best thought and essen-

tially it is one which the women in any country should assist one another to solve. It is too large a subject to enter into at any length now, but it is one of those subjects which will have much light thrown upon it by these councils and by the coming together of wise, experienced, loving and sympathetic women. (Hear, hear)

But springing up from these home duties come our social duties, which come to every woman—her duties to society. We sometimes lament the low tone of society, but if there is that low tone anywhere, whose fault is it? Is it not that of the women of the place? And is not a very grave responsibility lying upon us? and especially now in these days when every opportunity is given to woman for thorough education and for the use of her influence for the heightening of the whole tone of society. If we see the young people in our midst making pleasure the main object of life, whose fault is that? If there are two standards of morality expected, one for man and the other for woman; one for Sundays and the other for week days; one for religion and the other for business; whose fault is it? Is it not the fault of those who set the tone in the home and in the social life? In these matters also can we not unite in our conferences those of all churches and sections of thought who desire a lofty standard of morality, whether from the secular or religious point of view.

Can we not help one another to lift higher the ideal of life? whether in the home or social life, or the life of the country? (Applause.) Does it not depend upon us women, and especially upon those whom God has called to be mothers, to see that the children grow up with a high ideal of public life, that they should deem it to be a high privilege that they belong to this country, deem it a high honor to be trained to serve their country any way however humble. These matters come home to us mothers although I am not sure that the women of any country have realized the duty incumbent upon them to bring up their children with a distinct idea of what that service means. That brings us again to the further thought of a woman's duty to her country and to mankind at large; to that wider idea of duty to which women are called in these days. The call comes to all of us in one way or another. There are few who can shroud themselves in the privacy of their homes without hearing

in their hearts the summons to serve their fellow creatures in some way or another. It is a most holy call and a high vocation this call which comes to women, but we must remember that one of the great essentials for its success is to carry into our work the element of true womanliness; and what does that quality involve? How has it been brought into being? Is it not the pressure of home duties and family life that has taught women in a greater or less degree that they must live for others? Is it not a fact that woman must learn this lesson through her children's needs, through the discipline of the home, if she is to rightly perform in any measure her duties as wife, daughter and mother? And it is in that spirit of self-sacrifice that we are called to go forth to the wider work to which women are being called now-a-days, and it is that spirit which only, our Lord has taught us, can regenerate the world. (Applause.)

I cannot suggest what the particular general work for the good of the community may be which the Victoria council, if it is formed, would be likely to take up, but I can indicate what the other councils have taken up and, by the way, I should tell you where local councils have been formed, namely at Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, London, Hamilton, Quebec, St. John, Halifax, Yarmouth, Port Arthur, Fort William, Winnipeg, Edmonton. Councils are likely to be formed at Vancouver, Regina, Calgary and Medicine Hat. The Ontario councils are much interested now in pushing a movement for manual training in their schools, and this indicates what, perhaps you could do here.

Col Baker is inaugurating this most useful reform in your schools, but if it is to be successful it must be backed by public opinion, and who can form that public opinion so well as the wives and mothers? If a paper were prepared showing the advantages of technical education for children and if a discussion ensued it would probably take public opinion one great step on this subject. (Hear, hear.) Montreal, again, is trying to arrange a scheme of associated charities, so very likely will Ottawa. Toronto dealt with the distress last year, being instrumental in the starting of an employment bureau. Quebec is to try to start a plan for training servants, and others are anxious to secure the appointment of police matrons to look after women newly arrested. It is wonderful how soon

the work comes to our hands when we get together and talk over the needs of our community. (Applause.)

Let it be clearly understood that we are not demanding rights by this Council; we are but seeking to help one another to perform our duties in a higher spirit and with a deeper motive than ever before, although, indeed, it may lead us to see duties where we never saw them before. But let us never seek to escape the discipline which has sanctified womanhood, but rather let us glorify in it. Let us make it yield us its full fruits, teaching us to give our very best and our very selves to whatever work for the common good God calls us. Let us always remember our basis, the promotion of "the golden rule of love." What more can we require? It can exclude none. It includes all, and in all our different counsils we rejoice to know that we have the support and co-operation of all sections; of all the various Protestant denominations; of representatives of the Roman Catholic church and its institutions. Here I would gratefully acknowledge the great support given to us by several of the archbishops and bishops of the church; and then again we have our Jewish sisters also with us. We welcome them all. Let them only be united in one common aim—the uplifting of humanity. Whether this is attempted through what we may call the more secular work of life or the educational work, or the promotion of that which goes to make life beautiful, the promotion of culture in any way, or the promotion of good and healthy recreation and all physical development—anything of that sort as well as directly philanthropic work—we want them all. We want them all to be drawn together by this beautiful and sacred bond of love. (Prolonged applause.)

The following is the Constitution recommended by the National Council for Local Councils of Women of Canada:

PREAMBLE.

Believing that the more intimate knowledge of one another's work will result in larger mutual sympathy and greater unity of thought, and therefore in more effective action, certain Associations of Women interested in Philanthropy, Religion, Education, Literature, Art, and Social Reform, have determined to organize Local Councils, and to that end join in the following:

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.—NAME.

This Federation shall be called the Local Council of _____ in affiliation with the National Council of Women of Canada.

ARTICLE II.—POLICY.

The aim of the Local Council is to bring the various Associations of Women in _____ into closer relations through an organized union; but no Society entering a Local Council shall thereby lose its independence in aim or method, or be committed to any principle or method of any other Society in the Council, the object of which is to serve as a medium of communication and a means of prosecuting any work of common interest.

ARTICLE III.—MEMBERS.

Sec. 1. Any Society of Women, the nature of whose work is satisfactory to the Executive Committee of a Local Council, may become members of said Local Council by its or a vote.

Sec. 2. The women of any organization composed of both men and women may associate themselves by their own vote and join said Local Councils.

ARTICLE IV.—OFFICERS.

The Officers of a Local Council shall consist of a President, Vice-Presidents at large, ex-officio Vice-Presidents (Presidents of all Societies federating in a local Council), a Corresponding Secretary, a Recording Secretary and a Treasurer.

These officers shall comprise the Executive Committee, whose business it shall be to control and provide for the general interests of the Council. Five members shall constitute a quorum of this Committee.

ARTICLE V.—MEETINGS.

Sec. 1. A Local Council shall hold Annual Meetings for the election of officers and other business.

Sec. 2. The Committee of Arrangements shall consist of the Executive Committee, together with one Delegate from each Society belonging to the Council.

Sec. 3. At the Annual Meeting each Society belonging to the Council shall have three votes (exclusive of that cast by the President).

Sec. 4. All other members of any Society belonging to the Council may have the privilege of participating in all discussions that may arise at the annual Meeting, but may not vote.

Sec. 5. Other meetings of a Local Council may be held from time to time as may best promote the interests of said Council.

Sec. 6. All new business to be brought before the Annual Meeting of a Local Council must first be submitted to the Executive Committee as notice of motion.

ARTICLE VI.—FEES.

Each Society federating in a Local Council shall pay an annual fee of \$ towards the expense fund of the said Council.

ARTICLE VII.—PATRONS.

Sec. 1. Any person whose name is acceptable to the Executive Committee may become a Patron of the Local Council upon the payment of \$5.00 annually, or \$50.00 at one time.

Sec. 2. The names of Patrons shall be placed after those of the Executive Committee on all printed documents.

Sec. 3. Any person whose name is acceptable to the Executive Committee, and who is not connected with any affiliated Society, may become a Member of the Local Council on payment of \$1 annually, and may take part in the proceedings and discussions of the public meetings of the Council, but is not entitled to a vote. Such members shall receive free all literature published by the Council.

ARTICLE VIII.—AMENDMENTS.

This Constitution may be altered or amended by a two-third vote of a Local Council at any annual meeting, provided that such alteration be in harmony with the constitution of the National Council, notice of the proposed change having been sent to the Executive of the National Council, two months, and to each Society belonging to the Council, at least one month, prior to such meeting.

(ACCOUNT OF MEETING CONTINUED.)

When Her Excellency sat down a beautiful cross of flowers was presented to her by a young lady on behalf of the King's Daughters.

Mrs. Dewdney, in moving a vote of thanks to the Countess of Aberdeen, said:

"I have been asked to propose a vote of thanks to Her Excellency for her kindness in sparing time to speak to the women of Victoria on subjects which interest us all. I, for one, go home with a clearer idea of what is meant by a National Woman's Council, and I imagine there are many more like me in the audience. I propose, therefore, that a very hearty vote of thanks be given Her Excellency, and I hope that some day she may come back to address us again, and find her remarks have taken root in good soil."

Mrs. Charles Hayward seconded the motion, which was carried amid much applause.

In responding, Her Ladyship said that it was a great pleasure to her to learn that Mrs. Dewdney had kindly consented to act as Honorary Vice-President of the National Council for the Province of British Columbia.

Mrs. Teague came forward and on behalf of a number of ladies handed the Countess a magnificent bouquet.

Bishop Perrin upon being asked to say a few words, remarked:

"I can only say that I have listened with much pleasure to the address which has been delivered under most exacting circumstances. I do not know if there is a lady in Victoria who could have held the attention of so large an audience in the way the Countess of Aberdeen has. I am used to speaking, and I know I could not have done it. Considering the extremely large audience, the behaviour of the people of Victoria impressed me very much indeed as high above that of audiences in other places outside of the Dominion of Canada, and augurs well for the success of the present undertaking in this place. I am confident that it can be carried out. The Countess of Aberdeen in her address has covered the whole ground, and leaves me nothing to say on that score. Though I am one of those who will not be allowed to vote as I am only one of those "necessary evils," (laughter,) I must express my warmest wishes for the success of this important organization of woman's work in the city of Victoria." (Applause.)

Lieutenant-Governor Dewdney came towards the front of the platform smiling, and was heartily applauded:

"I had no idea that I should have been called upon to say anything to-night, until the worthy Secretary of the Countess of Aberdeen informed me that Her Excellency had expressed a wish for me to speak. I had the pleasure of being on the platform at the Drill Hall when Her Excellency addressed the school children, and I recollect she stated that the Minister of Education, Colonel Baker, had asked her to make a few remarks and as she believed that everyone there must obey Colonel Baker, she did so at once. I recalled that expression and here I am (Laughter)."

"I am most proud to have an opportunity of listening to Her Excellency's admirable address, and of saying a few words to this immense gathering.

"I sincerely hope that the work as ably explained by Her Excellency will enter into the hearts and homes of the people of Victoria, and be extended over the whole of the Province.

"I trust, as my wife said, (I am not sure that you quite heard her) that the words

"we have heard from Her Excellency this evening will bear good fruit; and for my own part I shall be glad to do all I can to help it on and will give it my hearty support."

Mrs. Day then moved the following resolution:

"Your Excellency, Mrs. Dewdney and Ladies, I have great pleasure in moving the following resolution:

"That a Local Council of Women for Victoria and Vancouver Island be formed in affiliation with The National Council of Women of Canada."

"After the wonderfully able and telling address which we have just had the honor and pleasure of listening to, it is needless for me to add more than a very few words to this resolution.

"I am reminded of a circumstance which occurred on one occasion when a noble lady visited my native land. It had been raining for some days, and one of my countrymen happening to meet the lady about the grounds of the castle where she was staying, saluted her in true Irish style, whereupon her ladyship asked him "If it was always raining in Ireland?" "Bedad, me lady," was his reply, "there's nothing but sunshine wherever yer ladyship goes!" (Laughter and applause.) And we who have had the privilege of hearing Your Excellency to-night must acknowledge that we have forgotten the dreariness outside while we have been enjoying the sunshine of the bright and beautiful words which you have spoken.

"I hope that all the ladies present will heartily join in this movement—this grand sisterhood who band themselves together to further the application of the golden rule to society, custom and law, and which does not advocate nor necessitate the neglect of home, but the making and building up of happy homes, a true woman's pride and glory.

"I have much pleasure in moving this resolution."

Mrs. Spoffard seconded the resolution, and said:

"Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen: "I have much pleasure in seconding the motion that a local branch of the Woman's Council be organized in our city.

"We all understand how necessary it is that, in order to secure the best results from any effort, there must be organization and system in that effort. Nevertheless the world is to day crying out against the multiplicity of organizations. It is organization on the one hand, and on the other hand; organization in the church, and out of the church; organizations for men, and organizations for women; organizations for the aged, and organizations for the youth;

organizations for every line of labor; organizations for every form of recreation; organizations co-operative, organizations restrictive, and organizations protective. And it does seem as though the world is not only organized, but re-organized, until in their overlapping one is led to wonder where there can possibly be room for further organization. But this Woman's Council of which we have learned so much this evening, is, as I understand it, not an organization for the promulgation of any distinctive principles, but rather the focusing or centering in one common organization all those already existing of whatever nationality, sect or creed. I am glad there is a probability of our having a council here in Victoria, because it is so much needed. If one were to enquire what are the women in the churches doing for Missions, the answer would probably be, "I really do not know. I can only say what we are doing in our church," or as a member of one benevolent or charitable institution what such organizations are doing to help the friendless and needy, they would probably say, "We do so and so, in the order to which I belong. I do not know what others are doing." This, I believe, is not for want of interest or sympathy for other workers and enterprises, in a general way, but because each is busy with their own, and having no means of being brought together in their work, have little thought for each other in work for a common humanity.

"The woman workers in this city need to be brought together to have their interests broadened and sympathies deepened. We need to know that there are others bearing just such burdens as we are, and needing sympathy and encouragement just as we ourselves need it.

"The second reason why I am glad for this organization, is based on the paramount motives of the council, the basis of whose union is furnished by the golden rule. Our christianity of to-day, savors too much of negative Confucianism, which says, "do not do to others that you would not have others do to you," and not enough of the Christ spirit which teaches us to do as we would be done by.

"The world needs more than a negative abstaining from evil, it needs the positive doing of good. In the Council of Women no auxiliary affiliating needs yield one iota of its own conviction, all can enjoy the privilege of its own belief, all can claim attention for the interests which they represent, but at the same time all are led in the spirit of the Master to yield to others, who think and believe differently, the respect which they claim for their own opinions.

"It asks not for less denominationalism but more unity of thought and purpose on

lines upon which we are all agreed. Not less interest in our own organization and efforts, but more sympathy in the efforts of others.

"I do not know by what means the organized efforts of the woman of our city can be brought together except through this council, and I do most sincerely believe that from its centre there shall radiate to the affiliating auxiliaries, a unity of thought, purpose and action, which shall result in renewed and better efforts in the various organizations with which the women of this city are connected. Therefore, Your Excellency, ladies and gentlemen, I have much pleasure in supporting the motion that a council be formed here."

The resolution was unanimously carried. Miss Perrin then moved and Mrs. Williams seconded,

"That the constitution of the National Council of the Women of Canada be accepted by the local committee, and that the following be a provisional committee until the first general meeting: President, Mrs. Baker; Vice-President, Mrs. Day; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Scaife; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Gordon Grant; Treasurer, Mrs. A. E. B. Davie."

This was also carried unanimously, and after a few minutes of silent prayer, at the request of the Countess of Aberdeen, the doxology was sung and the meeting adjourned.

