

**National
Council of
Women
of Canada.**

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Ottawa, 1898.

**President's
Memorandum.**

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PRESIDENT'S MEMORANDUM

OF THE

Business Transacted at the Fifth Annual Meeting of the National Council of Women of Canada, held at Ottawa, May 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st, 1898.

I have much pleasure in submitting the following Memorandum to our Vice-Presidents, Provincial Vice-Presidents, Presidents of Local Councils and Nationally Federated Societies, for their own information, and in order that they may have a convenient abstract of the business transacted at our last Annual Meeting, to lay before their Executives and their Councils.

It is with feelings of great thankfulness that I remember our Fifth Annual Meeting, and I think that all of us who remember the First Annual Meeting held at Ottawa in May, 1894, marvelled as we heard of what work had been accomplished, and of the truly National and representative position now held by the National Council.

I will not, however, prolong such meditations on the present occasion, as I desire to make this document a business memorandum, leaving to our delegates the pleasant task of telling those whom they represented of their own personal impressions, and of inspiring them with that sympathy and unity of purpose which undoubtedly manifested itself in no ordinary degree at this Conference, thus demonstrating the highest and truest use of the Council.

One general feature I cannot omit to mention, and that was the very gratifying fact that nearly all the Local Councils and National Societies were personally represented by members of their own Council, and this includes even our most distant Branches. Victoria, for instance, was represented by its late Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Scaife, who will from this time always be a most popular and helpful member of the Council. The same may be said for Mrs. Beecher, the late President of Vancouver Council, who fortunately happened to be in the east in May; and the third little British Columbian Council of Vernon was represented personally by Lady Majorie Gordon, who from living at our ranch, four miles from Vernon, is in touch with all the members of the Council, and hopes to be able to report to them direct. Our most recently formed Local Council of Charlottetown, which has made such a good beginning, was also directly represented by its able President, Mrs. Anderson; and St. John and Halifax were both very fully represented.

I will not, however, go over the names of all the other delegates, as they will be found included in our Verbatim Report, and also in the Agenda, a copy of which was received by all members of the Council who were present. A few copies of this Agenda still remain over, and I am distributing these between the Councils, in case they may be of interest to those who were not with us.

I must also be allowed at the outset to pay a tribute to the admirable hospitality arrangements made by the Committee at Ottawa. This Committee, of which Mrs. Tilton was Convenor, and Mrs. Egan, Secretary, was divided into the following sections:

DECORATION AND HALL COMMITTEE.

Convenor—Mrs. F. McDougall.

RECEPTION COMMITTEE.

Convenor—Mrs. Herridge.

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE.

Convenor—Lady Ritchie.

BILLETING COMMITTEE.

Convenor—Mrs. Asa Gordon.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Convenor—Mrs. Larmonth.

PRINTING AND PRESS COMMITTEE.

Convener—Mrs. Gough.

As far as I know, all the arrangements made went without a hitch, and the members of the Reception Committee were able to carry through their resolution of meeting all the delegates at the various trains, although some arrived at very early hours.

The Council Hall presented a most charming appearance, owing to the efforts of the Decoration Committee, and the taste with which the flowers were arranged daily was a subject of special remark. The young ladies who acted as stewards and pages were very active and efficient.

The luncheons provided by the Ottawa Council were voted a great success, and did credit to Miss Bradley, the Teacher of Cookery at the School of Domestic Science, in connection with the Young Women's Christian Association.

Many of the wives and daughters of the Ministers of the Crown, including Lady Laurier, together with other leading ladies in Ottawa society, took a great deal of trouble in connection with these luncheons, and their kindness was deeply appreciated by all our delegates and members.

I would like to suggest to the Ottawa Local Council the bringing out of a small leaflet of "How to Entertain the National Council of Women of Canada" by a Local Council. I am sure that the suggestions and hints contained in such a leaflet would be greatly valued by future hostesses of the Council.

I must, however, come to business and will endeavour to record the work accomplished as briefly as possible, remembering that this Memorandum will, in many cases, be read at meetings of our Local Councils, and I do not desire to tax the patience of the members unduly.

I.—ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The election resulted in the return of the following ladies :—

PRESIDENT.

The Countess of Aberdeen.

ELECTED VICE-PRESIDENTS.

Lady Laurier.

Lady Thompson.

VICE-PRESIDENTS FOR PROVINCES AND FOR THE NORTH WEST
TERRITORIES.

Nova Scotia.....Mrs. Archibald.
New Brunswick.....Lady Tilley.
Prince Edward Island.....Lady Davis.
Quebec.....Mrs. George Drummond.
Ontario.....Mrs. Boomer.
Manitoba.....Mrs. Bryce.
Assiniboia.....Madame A. E. Forget.
Alberta.....Mrs. Lougheed.
British Columbia.....Miss Perrin.

Corresponding Secretary.....Mrs. Willoughby Cummings.
Recording Secretary.....Mrs. Edward Griffin.
Treasurer.....Mrs. Hoodless.

It will be noted that there are but few changes.

The Council decided on re-electing me in spite of my warning that a different course would be more advisable, in view of the circumstances that I shall be obliged reluctantly to bid farewell to the Council before the end of the year. In the meantime, however, I will do my best to carry on the duties entrusted to me.

Some other remarks must be made regarding some of the Provincial Vice-Presidents: Mrs. Archibald signified her desire to retire from the Presidency, but as there was no other nomination, the Council determined to re-elect Mrs. Archibald, on the understanding that Miss Parsons, whom Mrs. Archibald had chosen to represent her in her absence, would assist her in her duties.

Mrs. George Drummond had also signified to us that she would be unable to do any work in connection with the Council, on account of ill-health. The Council, however, realizing the great value of Mrs. Drummond's connection with its work, decided to beg her to allow her name to remain as a Vice-President, asking her to appoint some other lady to act for her in the meanwhile.

Madame Forget also resigned on account of her leaving the North-West Territories, but seeing that she has still a close connection with that part of the country, she was also requested by the Council to continue her valuable work as Vice-President, on our behalf.

Lady Davies was elected Vice-President for the Province of Prince Edward Island, and Mrs. Edward Griffin was elected Recording Secretary.

II.—ANNUAL REPORT.

The Annual Report of the work of the Council was presented in concise form by our Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Willoughby Cummings, who was requested to have it printed and circulated in the Hall on the occasion of the Evening Public Meetings.

You will find this Report in the small Annual Report, which will be published and circulated amongst the Councils very shortly.

III.—FINANCE COMMITTEE.

It will be remembered that it was decided to form a Finance Committee in connection with the National Council, by asking every Local Council to appoint one of its members to be a member of such Committee. The Committee was to meet only once a year, but each member appointed was to consider herself as the guardian of the financial interests of the National Council, and bound to obtain as many Life Members and Patrons as possible, and also to take all means in her power to increase the regular income of the National Council.

This Committee held its first meeting at the Normal School on Monday morning, May 16th.

It drew up a report which was submitted first to the Executive and afterwards to the National Council, and which mainly consisted of the three following resolutions:—

1. "That each Local Council be asked to make their President an Annual Patron of the National Council."

2. "That this Committee beg to recommend that changes be made in the Constitution by adding to Article VII,—for both the National and Local Councils a section providing for Life Membership, the fee to be \$25 for the National and \$15 for the Local Council, the names of life Members to be printed after the list of Life Patrons; said Life Membership to be regarded as a tribute of honour and of appreciation of the person who is made a Life Member, or of the person who becomes a Life Member in either the National or Local Councils."

3. Resolved—"That a definite sum be raised as 'National Council aid,' by the Local Councils and Nationally Organized Societies—by giving a proportionate sum per capita of two cents for each member of their affiliated Societies or Branches.

If necessary this amount may be raised by some public effort such as lectures or evening entertainments, bearing upon the work of the Council or Society."

All these were adopted for recommendation to the Local Councils, and I now submit them for your careful consideration.

The second and third recommendations would involve an addition to the Constitution, and you should, therefore, read the discussion which took place on it, carefully, which you will find in the Verbatim Report when published.

The Council did me the honour of making me the First Life Member by their own subscription. I need scarcely say how deeply I value this kindness.

It would appear as if the second recommendation of the Finance Committee were likely to be very successful for the object in view, as we have already received notification of three more Life Members.

I cannot leave the subject of the Finance Committee without *again* pressing upon our officers and the Councils and National Societies, the necessity of providing some liberal sum for purposes of organization.

Sometimes we hear fears expressed as to the supremacy of the Council. I am convinced that these fears are quite baseless, for the women of Canada have given sufficient proof of their belief in the work and of their power to carry it on.

But in a National movement, such as ours, much must necessarily depend on organization and the proper and systematic carrying on of the dull routine of business.

No provision has hitherto been made for this purpose, and I am convinced that we ought to have a Headquarters Office and a permanent paid Secretary, who will at once make it possible for us to have that Bureau of Information concerning the women of the country, their position, opportunities, work, education, etc., which our Council has advised the International Council to initiate in every country.

It will be easily seen that to carry on such a Bureau efficiently would tax the powers of the most able and hard-working Secretary whom he could find.

The temptation is to allow such a matter to slide, and to place all the responsibility on the Honorary Officers. It is most desirable to have the services of able and earnest Honorary Officers,

such as those who have served us so well, but it is *not* fair to expect them to carry on the routine business of the Council, which is by no means inconsiderable and which is growing yearly to typewrite the Memorandums, Agendas, etc., and to produce the copies of such documents for the use of all the Councils and to collect all the statistics from the various Provinces; which are constantly necessary for the reports and the carrying on of our work.

In addition to this, new Councils might constantly be formed and old Councils strengthened if we had an official whose business it was to undertake organizing work and who was able to speak at Public Meetings.

The qualifications which I have indicated point to the advisability of securing, if possible, a University bred woman, who has been trained to systematic thought and work, and at the same time one who has taken part in the work of the Council. It would also be most important that she should be able to speak and write in French with facility.

It will not be easy to secure the right officer, but I should not be doing my duty if I did not again press on all our friends the important necessity of making an effort to provide an adequate salary and travelling expenses for a regular Secretary.

The National Union of Women Workers in England, who have not the same difficulties to contend with as we in Canada, in connection with long distances, and who do not preserve anything like the same close organization between the different Local Unions, have decided that the minimum amount which they need for their work is £700 yearly, that is £300 for the Secretary's salary; £300 for Secretary's travelling expenses and printing, and £100 for the rent of the Office.

We cannot hope to attain to this, but we should realize that it is not waste of money to provide for organization and to secure a paid officer, on whom so much will depend.

I have felt the importance of this subject so strongly that I have undertaken to provide a Secretary and Headquarters Office for the remainder of the year for which I have been elected President, after I leave, and this offer was accepted by the Council.

I am not yet able to announce any arrangements for the carrying out of this offer, but I earnestly hope that I may be able to complete some plan satisfactory to all concerned.

If twenty of our Council members would undertake to raise \$100 or \$50 each annually for organization purposes, travelling

expenses and the payment of a Secretary, for say three years, it would lift a great weight off my mind when thinking of the future of the organization, which has it in its power to do so much for Canada.

IV.—TREASURER'S STATEMENT.

In view of what I have said above, it will be encouraging for our members to know that our Treasurer was able to announce that for the first time our income had met our expenditure, and had left a balance of \$25.12 in our favour.

Our income, including the donations of some Life Patrons, amounted to \$661.84 and the expenditure, \$636.72. Full details will be found in the small Annual Report.

V.—INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL.

This report was presented by myself, and included my grateful thanks to the delegates appointed to act on behalf of Canada at the Executive of the International Council in 1897.

I must refer you for this report to the Verbatim Report, when published, but will simply state that it was decided:—

(1) To appoint Mrs. Cox, the President of the Montreal Conference, to represent the President of the Canadian Council at the forthcoming Executive Committee in July in London, Miss Derdick being also appointed as a second representative, if necessary.

(2) The following resolutions were sent to the International Council to be placed on the Agenda for the Quinquennial Meeting to be held in 1899:

(a) "That the International Council of Women do take steps to form a Committee of Women in every country to further and advance, by every means in their power, the movement towards International Arbitration."

(b) "That every National Council form a Standing Committee of Information, with a Bureau of Information, if possible, where statistics regarding the women of the country shall be collected and kept up to date. The business of this Committee or Bureau shall be to gather together and to give accurate information regarding the position, employment, education, pursuits, etc., of the women of the country, and to collect any further information required."

(3) The Treasurer was instructed to pay the quinquennial fee of \$100 to the Treasurer of the International Council at the proper time.

In connection with this report, I was able to announce that I had just received the report of the formation of a National Council of Women in Italy, largely owing to efforts of one of our own members, Mrs. Sanford, President of the Local Council of Hamilton.

Communications were also reported from the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland, sending copies of their reports, and also asking for special information regarding women in Canada for a Committee of Information which they had formed.

It was decided to ask Mrs. Cox to attend this meeting, if possible, and also to send Mrs. Edwards' paper on Regulations and Methods of Election of School Trustees.

VI.—COMMITTEE ON REGULATIONS AND METHODS OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES IN DIFFERENT PROVINCES.

The Report of this Committee was presented by Mrs. Edwards in a most able paper.

It was decided that this paper should be printed separately for the use of the Councils. A copy will be forwarded free to the President and Secretary of each Council, but it is hoped that a number will also be purchased for circulation amongst our members. This report contains the sort of information which our members of Council should make it their business to obtain, and I trust that the attention of all our Councils will be directed to this paper, in conjunction with Mrs. Edwards' paper in the report of 1897 also.

VII.—COMMITTEE ON NUMBER AND TREATMENT OF FEEBLE-MINDED WOMEN IN EACH PROVINCE.

This report was presented by Mrs. Tilley, which involved no small amount of work.

It was pointed out how a full and accurate report could only be obtained through official sources, but enough was proved to show the importance of the subject as bearing on the character of the future population of the country.

As the results of a circular sent out to all the clergy in Nova Scotia, it was computed that there were two-hundred feeble-minded women between the ages of 14 and 40 outside any institution and liable to be a prey to evil-minded persons.

It was also roughly computed that in the Province of Ontario there would be between eight and nine hundred feeble-minded women at large. Under these circumstances, it was decided to

pass a resolution asking the Dominion Government to direct the Dominion Statistician to obtain an accurate return on this subject.

VIII.—THE CARE OF THE AGED POOR.

A sad picture of the present position of the aged poor was presented by Mrs. Willoughby Cummings in her report on this subject.

As an example, let me remind you of the statement of the Inspector of Prisons and Penitentiaries in the Province of Ontario, who says that some sixty or seventy per cent. of the jail population of Ontario consists of the aged and destitute poor, and the feeble-minded.

He also says that it would be necessary to provide more jail accommodation for prisoners if some other system for the care of the simply destitute is not carried out in many districts.

Mrs. Cummings urged that the Council approach the Dominion Government with a petition to alter the Vagrancy Act, so that its enactments should not be made to press so hardly on the destitute and aged poor. The Report was adopted, on the understanding that this recommendation should take effect.

Again let me urge on all our Councils the desirability of reading the actual report and discussion on this subject.

IX.—PROVISION OF WORK FOR THE POOR.

Owing to the fact that but very few Councils sent in a report on this subject, it was deemed better not to present any formal report to the council for adoption, but in its stead a very able paper on the whole problem of the unemployed had been prepared by Miss Reid, the Secretary of the Montreal Council. This paper was printed by order of the Executive, and copies are now sent to you for distribution.

These papers should be given to those likely to take a real interest in the subject and all efforts should be made to form a small circle or committee for the systematic study of the subject.

Some books on the subject are suggested at the end of Miss Reid's paper, and others could be named if desired.

If I am not mistaken, there is a section in connection with the Home Reading Union which would be helpful to those who desire to pursue the subject.

In connection with this subject, the following resolution was passed :—

“ That the National Council of Women of Canada promote the establishment of Boards of Associated Charities in cities which are yet within them, in order that greater benefit may be accomplished by the co-operation of charitable societies and agencies; that cases of need may be more readily discovered and assisted, and that imposition may be exposed and prevented, and that in conjunction with such organizations, some work tests, such as wood yards, sewing rooms and laundries, are essential, and that all such remedial plans as Labour Bureaus, Savings Banks and Allotments, should be carefully developed.”

It is much to be desired that this resolution will not prove to be a mere barren form of words, but will be fruitful in furthering the efforts of which it speaks. I trust that every Local Council will have a discussion on this subject after reading Miss Reid's paper.

X.—LITERATURE COMMITTEE AND HOME READING CIRCLES.

Mrs. Cox presented a report on this subject and told of the progress of the Home Reading Union. Please see Verbatim Report.

XI.—IMMIGRATION.

Mrs. Cox also presented a report on this subject, but as the proposals endorsed by the National Council in 1897 were still under consideration of the Government it was not possible to report any very definite progress, but the Council must remember that it is a subject which should not escape their attention.

XII.—RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY COUNCIL.

I will now give you a list of the resolutions adopted by the Council in their final form.

In the small Annual Reports notes will be placed against each resolution and amendment on the Agenda, giving information as to its fate.

I.—AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS.

“ That a Standing Order be added for the use of both the National and Local Councils, providing that Local Councils do not bring any matters before Provincial Legislatures without first receiving the endorsement of the Executive Committee of the National Council.”

II.—ESTABLISHMENT OF BOARDS OF ASSOCIATED CHARITIES.

(AS ALREADY STATED ABOVE.)

“That the National Council of Women of Canada promote the establishment of Boards of Associated Charities in cities which are yet without them, in order that greater benefit may be accomplished by the co-operation of charitable societies and agencies; that cases of need may more readily be discovered and assisted, and that imposition may be exposed and prevented. That in conjunction with such organizations, some work tests, such as wood yards, sewing rooms and laundries, are essential, and that all such remedial plans as Labour Bureaus, Savings Banks and Allotments, should be carefully developed.”

III.—PROTECTION OF BIRDS AND ANIMALS FROM DESTRUCTION IN INTERESTS OF FASHION.

“That Local Councils be invited to co-operate in measure for the protection of animal and bird life from useless destruction in the interest of fashion.”

The discussion on this resolution should be brought before all our Local Councils, in order to enlist sympathy of our members everywhere and to prevent the useless destruction of mother birds and nestlings, which are involved especially in the care of the ospreys and egrets, details concerning which were eloquently placed before us by Mrs. Boomer and Mrs. S. G. Wood; also the destruction of animals, as in the case of Persian lamb, where the coveted fur is taken from unborn lambs.

IV.—PUBLICATION OF DETAILS OF CRIMINAL CASES.

“That the National Council invite the Local Councils to unite in protesting against the publication of needlessly minute and sensational details of criminal cases, on the ground that such publication must have a demoralizing influence, especially on the young people who are readers of newspapers, and that the cordial thanks of this National Council are due to those newspapers that are now excluding from their pages the objectional matter aforesaid.”

V.—TRAINING OF CHILDREN, NECESSARY FOR GREATER CO-OPERATION BETWEEN PARENTS AND TEACHERS.

That the following words be substituted for the words of the above resolution:

“That as there is grave reasons for fearing that the moral training of the youth of Canada is not receiving sufficient attention,

“and as the training of good citizens must begin in the homes and
“in the schools of the country, the National Council of Women of
“Canada pledges itself through its Local Councils and Nationally
“Organized Societies to strive to induce a greater sense of respon-
“sibility amongst parents and to bring about more co-operation be-
“tween parents and teachers, by means of Conferences, Parents’
“Unions and otherwise, so that more stress may be laid on wise
“moral teaching and more effect made to impress the duties of
“good citizenship on the youth of this Dominion.”

In connection with the above resolution it may be interest-
ing to our Councils to see the outline of a Constitution recently
drawn up to the use of the newly-formed Women’s Educational
Union of Ottawa.

WOMEN’S EDUCATIONAL UNION OF OTTAWA.

CONSTITUTION.

The Union has been formed with the object of providing a
centre for intercourse between Parents, Teachers and all who
are interested in education, and of giving an opportunity for study
of Educational problems.

AIMS.

1. To assist all concerned in the training of children to un-
derstand the best principles and methods of Education in all its as-
pects, and especially those which concern the formation of habits
and character.
2. To secure greater unity and continuity of Education by
harmonising home and school training.
3. To afford to parents and teachers opportunities for co-
operation and consultation, so that the wisdom and experience of
each may be profitable to all.
4. To collect all information possible on Educational sub-
jects, and by degrees to form a Lending Library of Educational
works, which shall be available for all members of the Union.

MEMBERSHIP.

All women interested in Education shall be eligible for mem-
bership.

Members shall pay a fee of 25 cents a year.

MEETINGS.

The Educational Union shall hold three regular public meet-
ings during the year (exclusive of the Annual meeting), at which
Lectures or Addresses on Educational subjects shall be arranged
and discussion invited.

VI.—BUYING OF CHINESE WOMEN AS SLAVES.

“Whereas the British law forbids the buying and selling of human beings and the holding of the same in bondage after they land in Great Britain or any of her colonies, and whereas there is good reason to believe that young girls are sometimes purchased in China and imported into British Columbia and are sold as slaves in this province, even to the buying and selling of the same by Chinamen,—Therefore, be it resolved, that the National Council of Women of Canada do petition the Dominion Government to order an impartial investigation into the Immigration of Chinese Women, and that we humbly suggest that copies of the law pertaining to slavery be printed and kept posted in conspicuous places, such as Custom and Court Houses, Post Offices and Police Stations throughout the Province, and such efforts be made as may seem advisable to put a stop to the iniquitous traffic. And further, that the Chinese be compelled to comply with our laws in regard to Coroner’s inquests over sudden deaths. And further, whenever possible, interpreters who are men of the Anglo-Saxon race and of unimpeachable reputation be employed in Courts of law, and that in addition the British law relating to slavery should be translated into the Chinese language, and hung in the places named, and that all Chinese Schools, missionary or otherwise, should be compelled to teach the same.”

VII.—ADOPTION OF PEACE FLAG.

“That the National Council of Women of Canada accept the Peace Flag and adopt the same for use as the emblem of Peace of the Brotherhood of Man and of International Co-operative work.”

I will not endeavour here to explain the meaning of the Peace Flag, but will either enclose with this or send later some papers or cards, giving all details.

VIII.—DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT ANNUAL MEETING.

“That the invitation of the Hamilton Local Council to the National Council of Women of Canada for 1889 be accepted with hearty thanks.”

XIII.—WOMAN’S SOCIAL LIFE AND OBLIGATIONS.

The resolution sent up on this subject by Mrs. Drummond was considered by the Committee appointed for the purpose, with Lady Edgar as Chairman, with the result that the following recommendations were handed in to the private meeting of Council on Friday, May 20th :—

Your Excellency, Ladies of the Council.—

On behalf of the Committee appointed to consider the following resolution sent in Mrs. Drummond—

“That each Local Council and Nationally organized Society be asked to take into consideration the evident and growing need, especially in large cities, for a better conception and regulation of Woman’s Social Life and Obligations, in order that unnecessary pressure may be removed, energy economized and directed and opportunity correspondingly enlarged; and further be it resolved, that a Sub-Committee consisting of one delegate from each Local Council and Nationally Organized Society be appointed to meet during the Annual Meeting to consider this question, more especially as it regards the regulation of such organized duties as social entertainment and calls, and that this Committee be empowered to pass resolutions and take further action as they may deem advisable—”

I beg to report.

This Committee appointed met yesterday afternoon in the Library of the Convocation Hall.

PRESENT :—

Lady Edgar,	representing	Toronto.
Lady Ritchie,	“	Ottawa.
Mrs. Mackintosh,	“	Halifax.
Mrs. Cox,	“	Montreal.
Mrs. Reid,	“	Montreal.
Miss Phillips,	“	Montreal.
Mrs. Calder,	“	Hamilton.
Miss Machar,	“	Kingston.
Mrs. Boomer,	“	London.
Mrs. Yarker,	“	London.
Mrs. Bryce,	“	Winnipeg.
Mrs. McEwen,	“	Brandon.
Mrs. Beecher,	“	Vancouver.
Mrs. Scaife,	“	Victoria.
Mrs. Dignam,	“	Women’s Art Association.
Mrs. Willoughby Cummings,		

Lady Edgar was unanimously voted to the Chair, and Mrs. Scaife was asked to be Secretary to the Committee.

Lady Edgar opened the meeting by saying that she would read the resolution, and would after that ask each member present to voice the opinion of their Local Council on the subject.

The resolution was fully discussed, though with only two or three exceptions from the individual point of view, the Local Councils not having given any instructions.

The general opinion was, that continual calling after teas, luncheons and dinners was a burden; also that it should not be considered discourteous to return calls on other than the "At Home Day."

Mrs. Mackintosh, of Halifax, suggested that ladies should adopt the plan in vogue at Halifax, which is, that any lady not wishing to receive visitors, should have a basket outside the front door with "not receiving" written on it, visitors to drop their cards into it, and the courtesy to be accepted on both sides.

It was finally moved by Mrs. Calder, seconded by Mrs. Yarker, and carried:—

"That this Committee recommend to the National Council the following suggestions brought forward by Lady Ritchie, with the addition of the Halifax plan:

If a lady is unable to call on a regular reception day, after a lunch, dinner, or ball, it will not be considered discourteous if she leaves her card on any day of the week.

It is unnecessary to call after a tea. If, however, a lady is unable to attend, it would be more courteous to send a card of regret or to call after the tea.

Ladies not wishing to receive visitors should place a basket outside their door with "not receiving" written upon it. Visitors to drop their cards inside. (Suggestion from Halifax.)

The wives of Cabinet Ministers and the wives of the Speakers of the Senate and Commons should not be expected to return visits, and it would be esteemed a favour if the wives of Senators and Members coming to Ottawa would call on these ladies."

The adoption of this report was moved by Lady Davies, and seconded by Mrs. English, and adopted by the National Council unanimously for recommendation for the use of their members generally.

A minority report was also laid before the Council as follows, but after some discussion was withdrawn:—

I.—FIRST CALLS.

That it shall be considered that the requirements of courtesy have been fulfilled when a first call has been paid and returned;

that any further calling shall be entirely optional, and that to "owe a call" thereafter shall not involve any discourtesy on either hand.

II.—CALLING AFTER ENTERTAINMENTS.

That the acknowledgement of the courtesy of an invitation to an entertainment shall be held to have been sufficiently made by the leaving of cards only, and not necessarily on any particular day; that it shall not be necessary after an "afternoon tea."

III.—AT HOME DAYS.

That while "At Home Days" are very convenient, yet as unavoidable engagements often prevent ladies from calling on those days, no discourtesy shall be considered to be intended by a call made on any other day than the "At Home Days."

The recommendations above mentioned were, therefore, unanimously adopted on the motion of Lady Davies.

XIV.—WOMAN'S WORK IN RELATION TO HOME LIFE.

The *Thursday morning's* meeting, devoted entirely to the consideration of Woman's Work, in its relation to Home Life, was considered by many the most interesting of the whole Council.

It will be remembered that Mrs. Hoodless suggested the consideration of the subject under the four following headings:—

(a) "Does the increase of factory, workshop and commercial occupation amongst women tend to disintegrate domestic life?"

(b) Does the education and training directly bearing on the higher development of home life, such as Domestic Science in all its departments, instruction in matters of health and sanitation, the care of young children and of the sick, receive the consideration its importance demands from educational authorities and organized bodies of women?

(c) Apart from the value of education in Domestic and Technical Science in our Public Schools for all children, should not its importance as bearing on the problem of Domestic Service, both from the mistress's and from the servant's point of view, be considered?

(d) Does the Higher or University Education of Women injure or benefit home life?

The discussion can only be done justice to by reading it verbatim, and I shall, therefore, say no more on the subject, save to

express my personal hope that the Councils will follow the advice of the National Council and make the whole subject one of earnest study, and that they will especially endeavour to interest the young ladies of the district in its consideration.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

The Public Meetings held in connection with the Council were all most interesting.

VICTORIAN ORDER OF NURSES.

On the Tuesday evening a gratifying report of the progress of the work of the Victorian Order of Nurses was presented to the Council, whereby it was shown that four Training Homes were now started, and that the work of the Victorian Nurses had won high appreciation, both from the patients and the medical men under whom they had practiced.

Four Nurses had also been sent to the Klondike, and Miss Charlotte Macleod, of New Brunswick, the Superintendent of the well known Waltham Training School for District Nurses, has accepted the post of Chief Lady Superintendent and would enter on the duties of the position on July first.

The Royal Charter has now been granted and the permanent Board of Governors constituted as follows :—

Countess of Aberdeen, Lady Ritchie, Hon. George A. Cox, Hon. Mr. Justice Burbidge, Sir John Bourinot, K.C.M.G.—The five Governors appointed by the Governor-General.

Lady Laurier.—Appointed by Ottawa Local Association.

Hon. G. W. Allen, Hon. Sir James Edgar, Lady Thompson, Dr. Thorburn.—Appointed by the Toronto Local Association.

Hon. G. Drummond, Hon. L. T. Forget, Dean Bovey, Rev. Edgar Hill, Professor Craik, M.D.—Appointed by Montreal Local Association.

Professor Robertson and P. Gibson, Esq., M.D., Honourable Secretaries.

Mrs. Edward Griffin and H. M. Courtney, Esq., Honourable Treasurers.

At the time of writing the Halifax Association has not yet appointed their Governor and the Medical Associations will not be able to appoint their representatives until their meetings later on in the summer.

In the meantime the Board of Governors has decided to appoint a Provisional Medical Advisory Committee, so that no step may be taken without medical advice.

Miss Scovil, of New Brunswick, gave an interesting and able paper on District Nursing, which we hope will be printed separately, as it will be of great value to the work of the Order.

I should also mention that by the munificence of a well-known friend of the Order, that a Central Home has been generously presented to me for the Board of Governors, the Chief Lady Superintendent, and the Ottawa Association, in Ottawa.

HOW TO CHECK THE RAVAGES OF CONSUMPTION.

The second part of Tuesday evening's meeting was devoted to the consideration of the rapid spread of Consumption in Canada; to the desperate danger which persons attacked by this disease are to those in health; how the danger can be averted, and the disease itself arrested.

This is again another of those subjects which ought to commend the most anxious care of every woman amongst us. I can but entreat our Local Councils and National Societies and their officers to read, mark and inwardly digest the information given by Dr. Bryce, and to do all in their power to promote the reforms which he advocates, at the same time spreading the information and pressing home the responsibility of all within our influence.

WEDNESDAY EVENING MEETING.

INSTRUCTION IN APPLIED DESIGN FOR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES.

Wednesday evening's meeting was devoted to the consideration of how the Teaching of Applied Design to Women for Industrial Purposes could be promoted in Canada. Mrs. Dunlap Hopkins, founder of the School of Applied design for Women in New York, gave a very interesting address, and showed specimens of the work by the pupils. She urged the necessity for thorough instruction, and for going through a full systematic study of all historic ornaments. She instanced examples within her own knowledge of girls of talent in this direction, and of the many openings which exist for them if adequately trained.

The active co-operation and advice of manufacturers was insisted upon as most necessary.

An instance of how such co-operation might be extended from the manufacturers was shown by a letter written to myself by a firm of Wall Paper Manufacturers in Montreal, who stated that

they would prefer to obtain designs in Canada, but at the present moment were forced to seek for them in the United States and in Europe. They offered a prize of \$100 for designs if the Council initiated competitions for the purpose.

ART EXHIBITION FROM ONTARIO SCHOOLS OF ART.

In connection with this meeting a most interesting and suggestive exhibition of the work of the pupils in the Art Schools of Ontario in Industrial Art brought together by Dr. May, Superintendent of Art Schools, under the authority and with the hearty approval of the Hon. G. Ross, Minister of Education. This exhibition in itself proved the talent existing in Canada, and Dr. May and other gentlemen spoke on other aspects of the subject.

The Principal of the Art School of London, and Mr. Ellis, the head of the well-known firm of Jewellers and Silversmiths in Toronto, were also present and spoke on behalf of the object.

THURSDAY EVENING MEETING.

ABERDEEN ASSOCIATION.

On the Thursday evening, a public meeting in connection with the Aberdeen Association was held, but of this I will not speak, as a separate report will be issued, and I will take care that a copy of this will be sent to every President of Local Councils and National Societies.

The Hon. W. Mulock, the Hon. W. Paterson and the Hon. Sir Adolphe Caron all spoke most heartily and sympathetically of the good being done by the Association.

A FAREWELL MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY EVENING.

PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY OF U.S.A. NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

Mrs. May Wright Sewell, the President of the National Council of the United States, whose presence throughout our meetings was of inestimable value to us, spoke eloquently at the beginning of this meeting, and was followed by Mrs. Barnum Robbins, Secretary of the Council, whom we also had the pleasure of welcoming amongst us. I then followed with my own Farewell Address, which will be printed separately, as well as in the Verbatim Report. Copies of this address will be sent for the use of your officers, and any further copies desired by the Councils or individual members, can be applied for either to Miss Dallas, Government House, Ottawa, or to Mrs. Willoughby Cummings, 44 Dewson Street, Toronto. (Price 5 cents).

The gratifying feature of this meeting was the presence of several Cabinet Ministers and Ex-Ministers, including the Hon. G. E. Foster; Hon. W. S. Fielding; Hon. David Mills; Hon. Clifford Sifton. All these gentlemen spoke briefly testifying to their confidence in the Council and their appreciation of its work as public men. Lady Laurier conveyed the regrets of Sir Wilfrid at his inability to be present through indisposition.

SECTIONAL MEETINGS.

Sectional Meetings in connection with the various National Societies were held daily, and two pages has been allotted to each Society for giving a report of these sectional meetings in the Verbatim Report.

In addition to these a conference of the Humane Society was held on Friday afternoon, which will probably have as its result the federation of the women members of the Royal Humane Society with the National Council.

PRIVATE MEETING OF COUNCIL.

The Private Meeting of Council proved again a valuable part of our proceedings, but I will not give a list of the various questions put or the answers and conclusions arrived at, as they do not bear on any very immediate work before us, and a record of the proceedings will be found in the Verbatim Report.

VERBATIM REPORT.

The importance of our members and at any rate of our Officers, Members of the Executives of the Local Councils, possessing a copy of each year's Verbatim Report, was again alluded to. In this way only can we obtain thoroughness and continuity of work. I trust that Presidents of Local Councils will press this on their members.

I think I have now briefly recounted the work of our Fifth Annual Meeting.

I should like to dwell on the pleasure which it gave His Excellency and myself to meet personally with so many of our friends from various parts of the Dominion.

The Evening Party given at Government House on Monday evening proved of use, I think, in bringing the delegates together, and we are much pleased to know that it had been enjoyed by our guests.

We are also very pleased to have had the opportunity of entertaining all the delegates who remained over the Saturday at Luncheon, together with the Executive.

The ride given by the Electric Car Company to the delegates was much appreciated, as also the opportunity of visiting the House of Commons, and a Tea kindly given in honour of the delegates by Lady Edgar.

It was a great disappointment to all that the Premier, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, was confined to his room by a severe chill during the week of our Annual Meeting, and was, therefore, unable to fulfil his promise of coming to speak to us, but Lady Laurier was a constant attendant at our meetings, and gave a delightful Evening Party on Thursday evening to all the delegates. She also made her first little speech amidst much applause.

RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY WITH MRS. GLADSTONE.

There is yet one more Resolution passed by our Council to which I must allude and in this case I think I had better include in this memorandum the report of our proceedings as it appeared in the newspapers of May 20th :—

“ At the close of the morning business, His Excellency the Governor-General addressed the Council briefly, saying that he was aware that all present were conscious of the shadow that had fallen over the British Empire that morning when the intelligence had been received of the death of Mr. Gladstone. “A great man and a prince has this day fallen in Israel.” Doubtless their President would invite them as a National Council of Women, to join in an audible expression of what was in their hearts.

The President then said :—

“ MY DEAR FRIENDS,—I feel that as a National Council of Women, who own allegiance to the British Empire, we now, in conference assembled, cannot refrain ourselves from sending a respectful expression of deepest, truest sympathy with her whom the death of one of the greatest of Britain's sons has to-day left desolate.

And yet it is hard for me to find words in which to ask you to join with me in this expression. I have never spoken to you of Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone—His Excellency and I have never, I think, alluded to them in public in this country, for there was a time, and that not so long ago, when words such as we might make use of concerning them might be misunderstood when uttered by those who were well-known to have been devoted political adherents while in the old country.

But I have no fear that you will misunderstand me—

And to-day the world mourns its loss of a great light and forgets all past differences.

But I dare not speak much of Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone, for my husband and I have ever felt ourselves almost adopted children in their house. They are associated with the memories of us both in childhood—they were friends of both our parents—and Mr. Gladstone has often said to us that Lord Aberdeen's grandfather—the Premier—was the one statesman of his earlier years whom he loved. And as time went on our lives became more and more sacredly associated with theirs, both from a public and a private standpoint. We spent our last night in the old country beneath their roof, and when I went home last year, it was to Hawarden that I went first after landing, as a matter of course.

I know that we both feel that if we have been able to try to follow any high ideal in public life, we owe it largely to him who looked on every part of his life as a mission.

None of us know what the influence of Mr. Gladstone's life in the present and past generation of English public life has been in this direction.

How often have we seen him come into a room where some subject was being discussed lightly and flippantly and by his mere entrance all was changed.

One of the earliest things I remember of him saying which made an impression on me was when on a visit to my father's house in the Scottish Highlands he was one day at tea with us in the schoolroom, and as he left the room he turned to us children and said: "You must pray for me—there are some Bishops to be appointed—pray for me."

And in one of his latest letters to me when speaking of some political question, he wrote: "What we want is more prayer, more prayer."

Duty, duty, duty, in all he did or said and under all circumstances was his first thought. On this ring which he gave me and which I always wear is found an emblem of faithfulness, and "Faithful unto death was indeed his watchword."

But it is needless to speak of him—we all feel that we knew him, and that our lives are richer for having lived in his day and generation—and the world is a very different thing without him.

But of her to whom I invite you to join with me in sending a message, so much is not known—at least not yet. He himself said that it would be known some day what he owed to her, but only those who were privileged to come near to her realized her rare ability, her wisdom, her discretion, her intense devotion to all that is beautiful and good, her self-sacrifice, her self-efface-

ment and thought for others—but it was all an inspiration—that home of theirs was an inspiration.

They have had a beautiful life—and they will not long be divided. We can but thank God for them, and try to follow in their footsteps from afar—and we thank God that He has given His beloved sleep.

May I send a message to Mrs. Gladstone for you? "

At the close of Lady Aberdeen's speech a vote of condolence with Mrs. Gladstone was proposed by Lady Laurier, seconded by Lady Thompson, and supported by Mrs. Edgar, Mrs. May Wright Sewall and other ladies.

The resolution read :—

" That the National Council of Women of Canada, now in conference assembled, do desire to record their sense of the irreparable loss sustained by the people of the British Empire, in the death of Mr. Gladstone.

" They thank God for his grand life of service to the world, and they desire to cable to Mrs. Gladstone the expression of their most respectful and profound sympathy."

I know that it will touch the hearts of all our Members to know that I had a beautiful message sent direct to me by Mrs. Gladstone herself " on this wonderful Ascension morning," as she termed it, and breathing nothing but a most beautiful spirit of faith and thankfulness and recognition. We have since heard from her children that she has been wonderfully sustained and strengthened, both in body and mind, through three long weeks of waiting, and that she has returned to the old life at Hawarden, desiring still to continue as far as possible the works of beneficence and charity which have ever been her delight until the call comes which shall unite her to Him who has given the world "the patience of a wonderful Life, made perfect by an heroic Death."

And now, although this is the last Memorandum which it will be my privilege to send out as President of the National Council of Women, I will not add any words of farewell at this time. I hope to see many of our Officers and Members face to face and to speak my reluctant Good-Bye. I have already in my closing Address to the Council endeavoured to convey, however feebly, the expression of my heartfelt gratitude to the Council and to all who compose it, and I have indicated my high hopes and prayers for its future. May God be with us all.

ISHBEL ABERDEEN,
President.

