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Canada

Unity Programme for Canadian Women

CANADIAN RECONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION

Unity

Stability

Prosperity

TORONTO, FEBRUARY 12, 1919

Organization of Women's Committee

A Women's Committee has been formed to advise with regard to the reconstruction work to be undertaken by the Women's Department of the Canadian Reconstruction Association. The names of those who have consented to act on the Women's Committee are: Mrs. Arthur VanKoughnet, Mrs. H. S. Strathy, Mrs. Alexander McPhedran, Mrs. George Smith of St. Catharines, Miss Cartwright, Miss Chapman, Miss Church, Miss Gunn, Miss Marie Macdonnell, Miss McMahan, Dr. Helen MacMurehy, Miss Laura Powell, and Miss Marjory MacMurehy, in charge of the Women's Department, who is convenor of the Women's Committee. Brief biographical notes on the work which has been accomplished by these ladies in patriotic activities, employments or professions appeared in the *Toronto Daily News* for December 21, 1918, and are reproduced elsewhere in this Bulletin. When the organization is complete there will be representatives on the Women's Committee from each of the Provinces, and a number of other cities. The members of the Committee represent many varied activities and interests of Canadian women, and are competent to advise with regard to the welfare of returned soldiers and their families, child welfare, housing, employment, the interests of organized labor among women, educational work among aliens and immigrants, the education of girls, the interests of women in the country, business women, nurses and teachers, and regarding the paramount importance to the nation of the home. The Women's Department is an aid to the expert study of women's problems. Its organization has been planned to investigate and consider women's employment and the economic, social and domestic relations of women. The Women's Committee, which is a consultative and advisory body of able and distinguished women, will greatly further and strengthen the work of the Women's Department. This expert study of women's problems has been felt to be highly desirable, and many organizations and individuals have already availed themselves of the assistance of the Women's Department.

At the first meeting of the Women's Committee "A Unity Programme for Canadian Women" was read and approved as an outline of the policies of the Women's Department in Reconstruction. This Unity Programme is now published as a Bulletin, and may be secured from the Women's Department, Canadian Reconstruction Association, Royal Bank Building, Toronto.

Miss Roberta McAdams, one of the two women representatives in the Alberta Legislature, has become a member of the Women's Committee since its meeting in December. Miss McAdams is a graduate of the Macdonald Institute, Guelph. She proceeded overseas as dietician on the staff of the Orpington Hospital, maintained by the Ontario Government, and was elected one of the Soldiers' and Nursing Sisters' representatives for the Alberta Legislature in July, 1917. Miss McAdams is now in Edmonton attending the sessions of the Legislature.

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A Unity Programme for Canadian Women

Following is the programme approved by the Women's Advisory Committee of the Canadian Reconstruction Association :

1. Organization and co-operation in our activities as citizens, home-makers and workers, should be planned and carried out with practical foresight and energy.

2. Education should become to a reasonable extent occupational. The education of girls should be adjusted so that they may be prepared for the service of womanhood in the nation, as well as fitted for some skilled occupation.

3. The woman who carries on the race should be the first concern of the state in social legislation.

4. Women in industry and paid employments generally should be a special interest of all women. The organization of workers is believed to be beneficial, both for themselves and the country.

5. Co-operation between employers and employed is a first principle of Reconstruction.

6. Working periods, payments and their relation to the cost of living, and working conditions generally, should be subjects of constant and careful investigation by the state.

7. Human factors are of supreme importance.

8. There should be a great increase in public interest in employment, housing, and the welfare of returned soldiers and sailors and their families. Women will fail in their duty as citizens unless they take an active part in the study and solution of these social problems.

9. There should be co-operation between the Dominion and Provincial Governments in education, health and child welfare.

10. Production of wealth to the extent of our national ability in agriculture, manufactures, forests, mines and fisheries is an essential of national safety and national progress, as well as a condition of social reform.

11. National trade and finance and economics should become subjects of study by women.

12. The spending of money is one of the surest tests of patriotism. Standards of living may be endangered and depressed by wrong spending. The service of money in war is not more powerful than in peace. We may rob the country of strength and happiness through waste and luxury.

13. Reconstruction is required in the work of the home; in household management and accounting; in the training of girls for home-making; in co-

operative community household work and buying; in the recognition of the domestic worker; in realization of the value of the home employments; and in the community spirit in individual homes.

14. Women with opportunities and fitness should engage definitely in training for leadership.

15. There should be representation of trained and competent women on Government Commissions and public bodies generally.

16. The process of securing legal justice for women should be completed.

17. The history of the war has demonstrated the importance of co-operation of women with men and men with women, of citizens in a nation, and nations with nations.

18. The need of the world for food makes it a first duty of every woman to aid in the production of food to the extent of her opportunity, and to save food as far as possible.

19. Women should promote, by every means in their power, national unity and social unity, and should become active partners in a league of good feeling which will include political parties, church denominations, east and west, town and country, employer and employed, and the different racial elements in Canada.

20. Women in urban and rural communities should establish a co-operative exchange of ideas and services.

21. Aliens already in Canada and incoming immigrants should be Canadianized so that they may respect and love our national ideals and share fully in the future of the nation.

22. Children should be taught to love the land of their birth and to honor the immortal dead who have given their lives in the war; and men and women alike from boyhood and girlhood should be trained and taught in national service.

23. The duty of steadfastness and confidence should be impressed upon us all, especially during this time of restoration and reconstruction.

24. The earnest attention of all women war workers is asked to these services which they can render Canada in Reconstruction.

The increased capacity and united effort for service which have been called forth by war should be maintained, and even strengthened in Peace. Otherwise we shall sink back upon a lower level and mark ourselves as unworthy of the Victory bought by unprecedented sacrifice and heroism.

MARJORY MACMURCHY,

Women's Department, Canadian Reconstruction Association

Notes on Some of the Members of the Women's Committee

Published in the Toronto Daily News

No woman has taken a more active part in patriotic work than Mrs. Arthur VanKoughnet. Her work for the soldiers' comforts has been wonderful, and as a voluntary official of the Soldiers' Aid Commission, where she comes directly in touch with military hospitals, she has necessarily acquired a special knowledge of the soldiers' needs.

Mrs. H. S. Strathy, as a director of the Toronto Housing Company, will have knowledge on the housing situation, which will be invaluable. Mrs. Strathy is also president of the League of the Empire, which does valuable educational work.

Mrs. Smith, of St. Catharines, is one who as convener of the educational work of the I.O.D.E., has done most valuable work in education amongst the foreign born. Through her efforts, British pictures and libraries have been and are being placed in the schools where the foreign element prevails.

Mrs. Alex. McPhedran has been particularly active in sending socks to the soldiers and in raising funds for prisoners. The socks sent largely through Mrs. McPhedran's efforts totalled 110,567 pairs. It was she who organized the Ontario Red Cross Sock Committee, while the socks for two other organizations were also accumulated through her efforts. Mrs. McPhedran was the one woman on the Board of the Prisoners of War Society which sent assistance to all Allied prisoners.

Miss Cartwright is one of Canada's outstanding women. Intellectually brilliant, she is yet eminently practical, and as Dean of St. Hilda's College has an influence which is not easily measured. She has also been the president of the Woman's Auxiliary in the Anglican Church for Toronto diocese for a number of years.

Miss Chapman, who is on the staff of the *Farmers' Magazine*, was formerly on the staff of the Women's Institute of Ontario. She is familiar with rural conditions, and will be able to give valuable advice on that point.

Miss Church is by profession a teacher, and will thus represent an important element. Moreover, as sister of Mayor Church, she has taken a prominent part in work for returned soldiers.

Miss Gunn, Superintendent of Nurses at the Toronto General Hospital, will be representative of that profession. She is an exceptionally able woman.

Miss Marie Macdonnell, President of Rosary Hall Association, has always taken a keen interest in girls' work.

Miss McMahan is head of the Employment Bureau of the United Typewriter Company, and is an expert on employment. This fact is obvious when one realizes that as many as 8,000 girls are placed in employment in a year through her instrumentality.

Miss Laura Powell is one whose name is new to the public. Though a girl in her early twenties, she has shown remarkable ability, and was elected as president of the Telephone Girls' Union, recently organized.