

Speaking of the linking up of these powers of womanhood of city and country, I would like to especially mention Mrs. Irwin's address before the convention. Mrs. Irwin is president of the Local Council of Women of Brandon, an organization that has some very fine community work to its credit. Mrs. Irwin was scheduled to deliver the address of welcome and I will admit, convention hardened as I am, that I leaned back fully expecting to hear those "few well-chosen words" which are time-honored for such occasions. Instead, we heard an address which averaged an idea a sentence. Mrs. Irwin did not talk down or up to anyone. She saw before her a body of intelligent, earnest women and she proceeded to compliment them and herself by discussing problems with them and asking their help upon questions which her social serving had brought to her notice.

There was the problem of the Canadianizing of the foreign-born, especially the foreign-born woman. Many of them could not speak English and did not try to learn it. Yet under the present naturalization law they could claim British citizenship automatically on their husbands becoming naturalized. This meant that they could claim the franchise, and Mrs. Irwin was not at all sure of the wisdom of this. Then there was the problem of the alien labor which refused to work except for very high pay, and then in the lean seasons calmly presented themselves at the city relief departments for aid. Many laws regarding women and children needed reforming. There was the power law, and legal guardianship of children as instances. Then the system under which marriage licenses were issued was extremely lax. "It ought to be a doctor, not a jeweler, who was responsible for their issuing," declared Mrs. Irwin.

Coming to the sad cases of the commitment of the insane to the asylum Mrs. Irwin suggested that the present system by which patients were sent to the asylum from the police court was all wrong. A commission of doctors should have the commitment. I do not know anything about the reasons for the police court commitments but very probably it is to protect the patient so that in the blaze of such publicity there will be little or no danger of sane persons being wrongfully detained at the hospital for the insane. However we must agree that whatever the motive that surely some system may be devised by which the patient can be as well protected and at the same time all precautions taken to throw around the shield of helpfulness that his recovery may be hastened. Some of the other provinces have solved this matter satisfactorily.

Mrs. Irwin stayed throughout several of the sessions, giving her advice when it was asked and in every way doing her best to make co-operation, that much talked of, little practiced thing, a reality. Later the women of the council entertained the delegates in the beautiful drawing room of the Prince Edward. Many far reaching movement has begun over the tea cups.

Mrs. Robert Clement, president of the Women's Canadian club, also spoke on behalf of the Brandon women, again conveying the idea of a real desire to get from and to give out power for good.

When Mrs. Tooth rose to reply on behalf of the rural women I will own that I was particularly anxious that she should do herself and her organization credit. I knew she had the hot of the matter in her and it became a personal matter with me that her presentation should be as finished as that of the city women who had preceded her. Many city women I admire very greatly, but the country people are my ain folk.

I need have had no tremors. Mrs. Tooth spoke with dignity and with a certain sweetness which had power in it. Moreover in her survey of conditions she touched upon womanhood the world over, showing both depth

and breadth of vision that reached out and comprehended not only Canadian women but women and children everywhere. "Nothing is impossible," she concluded, "if we are sufficiently induced with desire." That is a good message at a time when we need so much faith.