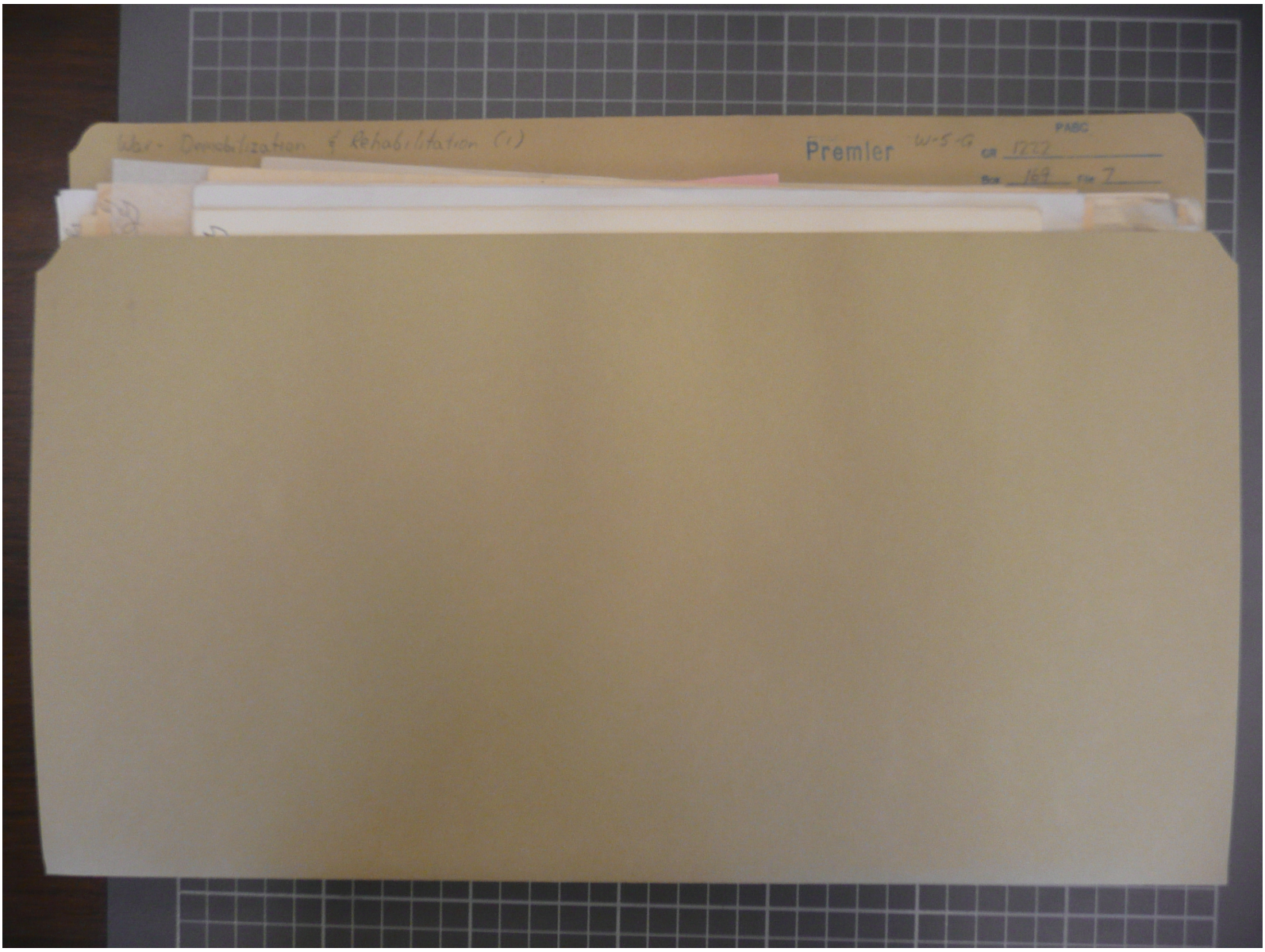

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VANCOUVER WOMEN'S SCHOOL FOR CITIZENSHIP

1975 Trimble Street
VANCOUVER, B. C.

JUNE - 1943

Brief submitted to the Post-War Rehabilitation
Council of British Columbia

The Board of the Women's School for Citizenship in Vancouver has worked out a number of ideas concerning post-war reconstruction in this Province. The women of this Board herewith submit a résumé of these ideas for the consideration of the Post-War Rehabilitation Council for British Columbia. It is our earnest desire that the Council will include these items in their recommendations to the Provincial Government and also that other women's organizations throughout Canada will evolve similar plans in conformity with the needs of their own provinces.

1. Women in Post-War British Columbia

The place of women in our present society is not well-defined and the ideas concerning it are too often carry-overs from former centuries. If women are to function fully and happily in the post-war society there must be a general acceptance of the following facts:

(1) Women who during the war are making definite and much needed contributions to the war economy must not later be expected to step out of that economy and return to a life belonging to the pre-industrial age. While a certain percentage of women will prefer to give full time to their homes if sufficient income is available for the family, many others will prefer to work gainfully.

The fact must be accepted that women as well as men must be free to work gainfully, if they so wish, in the post-war society.

The Women's School for Citizenship asks the Post-War Rehabilitation Council to plan so that women, both demobilized and civilian, both married and unmarried, will be able to continue in the types of work they may choose in post-war British Columbia. To deny them this choice would be to regiment the lives of these women and it would be a negation of the very democracy for which they, as well as the men, are now fighting.

(2) As one means for facilitating the above, and to plan for the proper functioning of the new society, we ask that Nursery Schools be made an integral part of the educational system of B. C.

There are several distinct advantages pertaining to Nursery Schools as follows:

(a) Parents will be able to send their children under the age of six to day schools suited to them, as they now send their children over the age of six.

(b) Educationists are agreed that children who learn to play with others in group activity from infancy grow up to be better citizens than children who do not have this opportunity.

(c) The Nursery Schools will also be centres of instruction for untrained parents, who at present have no adequate source of instruction in child guidance.

(d) Proper supervision and guidance in the early years will do much to prevent juvenile delinquency.

II. Land and Home Corps

The Women's School for Citizenship suggests that after the war the Land Army should be retained but the name be changed to Land and Home Brigade. Girls of the Armed Forces should be drafted into it as much as possible and they should work on farms in summertime and learn farming theoretically in winter.

Other girls should be available for work in the homes to help where there is help needed. They should be trained as practical cooks and housewives. Conditions of labor must be under the Minimum Wage Scheme and a smart and attractive uniform for both branches would be of great value to help the status of these so-long-debased forms of labor. The problem of domestic help could be solved by a system of service on the lines of Victorian Order of Nurses.

In this brigade a great number of young women would get proper training for their future lives as home owners and farmers, and the problem of employment of all these women would be solved to the benefit of the whole Province. But they must be well paid and respected.

III. Co-operative Farms with Government Help

(1) Back-to-the-land projects have failed up to now because there have not been sufficient facilities available for farmers. Young people especially, even those who have grown up on farms, could not be kept on the farms because life was too hard and opportunities for recreation too meagre. Farming could become the new choice of life for many people if a co-operative scheme were to be set up throughout the whole Province. This would provide every farmer with:

(a) The necessary implements which the individual farmer cannot buy for himself. Most farm implements are used for a relatively short time each season and the best way to secure them would be for the implements to be bought by the community as a whole. Such co-operatively owned implements could be rented out for a certain time to each of the farmers belonging to that co-operative group.

(b) Publicly owned hydro-electric projects should be worked out to provide far away communities with electric light and power. This would not only ease the life of the farmers but it would also provide attraction for the young people to stay on the farms.

(c) The mistakes of the first soldier-settlement projects could be avoided this time if the soldiers were to get the farm land free as a reward for their services to the country. There is no need for a new administrative body but there is need to provide enough suitable land for returned soldiers who want to settle as farmers.

III Co-operative Farms with Government Help (Continued)

(2) Planned production - The economic help could be a minimum one and yet provide the soldier with every means to make a start. Free land and co-operatively owned machinery would enable every farmer to start without debts and go on without debts. A prosperous farm population becomes the best customer and industry flourishes where the farmer's balance sheet is active.

There must be planned production to prevent waste through flooded markets of certain products and scarcity of others. Farmers should also be provided with education in existing marketing legislation as it pertains to orderly marketing, continuity of supplies and stabilization of prices.

(3) Farm Schools - Small farms of 40 or 50 acres, farmed intensively and scientifically, should be established in each rural district as local demonstration (not experimental) farms where students and practising farmers taking an agricultural course could work out their studies in production and farm management in a practical way. Such farms could be operated on a self-supporting basis where dairying, fruit production and especially vegetable growing would contribute to the maintenance of the farm. Vegetable growing is now in the control of Chinese and small fruit production was in control of the Japanese. Small fruits have been a million dollar industry in the Fraser Valley and would be particularly suitable for the small white land owners who have always been a problem in their efforts to be self-supporting.

It is the younger generation, inexperienced, who will be the future farmers, and if the basic industry of Canada is to flourish some definite effort of training will be necessary.

The teaching of the principles of co-operative methods in all schools should be included in the curriculum.

Library services should be provided for far away farms. The better the possibilities for a higher education and recreation even in remote places, the better the chance of keeping the youth on the land.

The same principle as that used in establishing co-operative farms should be used as far as possible in other post-war projects. The Rochdale plan of co-operatives, first established in England, has proved to be economically sound in many countries. Moreover, co-operatives, whether of producers or consumers, are also the best possible training in democracy, teaching people to run their own affairs successfully by group action.

IV. Adult Education

A special committee of the Public Library Commission prepared "A preliminary study of adult education, 1943: a contribution to the problem". This was done at the request of the Honourable George M. Weir, D.Paed., who asked them "to submit suggestions and preliminary recommendations for its developments."

IV. Adult Education (Continued)

The Committee's recommendations are:

(a) Passing necessary legislation for the organization of a Division of the Department of Education devoted to adult education.

(b) A Director responsible to the Minister of Education.

(c) A Council co-operating with the Director.

The Women's School for Citizenship recommends this report to the Post-War Legislation Council and encloses a copy of the said report.

V. Libraries

The Women's School for Citizenship recommends:

(1) Increasing centralization of the Province's library work about the Library Commission.

(2) More appropriation for growth and intensification of their effort. Aid is needed for:

(a) City and union libraries.

(b) Raising the status of association libraries.

(c) Expanding the open shelf.

(d) Travelling libraries.

(e) Extending consolidated school libraries, as at Prince George.

(f) Placing all services in the Peace River and other districts.

(g) Organizing institution libraries on an efficient basis.

(h) Building up such cultural forces as phonograph record libraries, and pictures.

(i) Raising librarians' salaries.

Aid is also needed for the expansion of the University Library:

Books, periodicals, stacks, building, staff and salaries, and further development of art and music collections.

VI. Fine Arts Department at University of British Columbia

The Board of the Women's School for Citizenship urges the establishment of a Chair of Fine Arts at the University of B. C. This would help to create an artistically minded public, it would encourage young artists and build up British Columbia as an art centre in the future. At present the Faculty of Arts gives no courses in either art or music appreciation, or the history of these subjects. Courses in architecture could also be included in conjunction with this.

Already, in an effort to encourage this Province along these lines, the Carnegie Foundation has presented to the University of B. C. a library of classical gramophone records, with musical literature and gramophone. The same Foundation has made our university a grant of reproductions of hundreds of famous paintings, as well as books on painters and the history of art. This collection, like the music collection, is worth many thousands of dollars, and as things are at the moment, the fullest possible use is not being made of it.

Some years ago the Carnegie Foundation, which is interested mainly in the promotion of such projects, offered to assist with the establishment of a Chair of Fine Arts at the University of B. C., to the amount of $1,500. a year for three years, the rest to be raised within our own Province. If such a Chair were established, it is presumed that prominent British Columbia artists would be enlisted as guest lecturers and a course of music appreciation could be supplemented not only by the handsome collection of gramophone records which the university already owns, but also by the music of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra and the Vancouver Junior Symphony Orchestra.

Until the artistic taste of our students can be improved by some such formal instruction, many U.B.C. graduates will not be able to enjoy a fully cultural life among educated men and women. On the other hand, the scenic background of B. C. provides an ideal setting for building up an artistic centre of world fame. The establishment of a Seat of Fine Arts at our University would mean the general cultural enrichment of this Province and it would also help in post-war reconstruction.

Physical Education at University - The long neglected physical education at the University of B. C. has received new impetus through the O.T.C. and the wartime physical training of the girl students. We propose that such compulsory courses should be carried over into peace-time and that instead of the military training, health education should become the substance of the courses.

Training courses should also be given to qualify teachers as instructors in Physical Education. All school teachers should be equipped for training and assisting others in recreation and physical development.

VII. A Faculty of Preventive Medicine at the University of British Columbia

The Women's School for Citizenship proposes the establishment of a Faculty of Preventive Medicine at the University of B.C. Such a school for Preventine Medicine would be a unique institution and, as such, attract a large

VII. A Faculty of Preventine Medicine at the University of British Columbia (Continued)

number of students both from Canada and the United States. Undoubtedly the trend of modern medicine is towards prevention of disease rather than cure. The older Medical Schools cannot be expected to change their curricula quickly. British Columbia would have a splendid opportunity, with its existing public health service of high order, to pioneer in the establishment of a new medical curriculum. Both the public and many members of the profession itself realize this is long overdue.

In this medical school, emphasis would be laid on the promotion of health, which is now in the hands of laymen, like dieticians, naturopaths, etc. Post-graduate courses would enable practicing physicians to become acquainted with the newest developments in the prevention of disease and the recognition of the earliest signs of sickness.

The doctors of B. C., at the present time, have no opportunity of taking post-graduate courses, which alone can keep a doctor up to date with modern requirements. As things are now, the doctors of B. C. have to leave their offices and their patients behind for several weeks if they want to take post-graduate courses because they are compelled to go east or south. This means tremendous expense for the doctors; therefore, only very few can afford to do it. The professional level of the doctors who are not able to attend post-graduate courses must necessarily sink, sometimes with very fatal results for the patients. A medical school in Vancouver would enable every doctor, without interrupting his or her practice, income and work, to attend post-graduate courses every year. This would be of increasing value for the welfare of the whole population of British Columbia.

Such a medical school should be small at first but would gradually expand. Admission requirements should be rigorous so that the student body will be select and the academic level of the school can be kept high. The course should be four or five years long, comprising the basic sciences and clinical subjects, with emphasis on recognition of disease in its earliest stage, and the proper care for a healthy body.

The costs of such a faculty would be well within the means of the Province of British Columbia, especially when one considers that Alberta, with much more meagre resources, is able to sustain a medical school. Philanthropic organizations, such as the Rockefeller Foundation, would take a very material interest in such a unique establishment. The amount spent by the Provincial Government would be repaid by the increased sums of money brought by the many tourists, patients and students attracted by the medical school. Not only the people would profit from the work of well trained doctors but also the tourist traffic and everything in connection with it would benefit from an increased influx of people. They would come here not only because of the beautiful scenery but to find health and convalescence from the pure air and the hot springs, after treatment by the doctors of British Columbia.

For the moment, however, the erection of a "Preventive Medicine Institute" should be considered, as a precursor for such a medical college. The late Sir Frederick Banting, the late Dr. J. G. FitzGerald, Director of Connaught Laboratories and the School for Hygiene of the University of Toronto, Dr. C. H. Best, and numerous high officials of the Rockefeller Foundation, have given their approval to proposals for such an Institute here in B. C. It would house the following affiliated organizations:

VII. A Faqulty of Preventive Medicine at the University of British Columbia (Continued)

(a) The main laboratories and headquarters of the Provincial Laboratories of B. C.;

(b) The Department of Bacteriology and Preventive Medicine and of Nursing and Health of the University of B.C.;

(c) The Western Division of Connaught Laboratories, University of Toronto, and other research workers operating under governmental endowment, or private philanthropic grants;

(d) The University of B. C. Health Service.

The plans for such an Institute were drawn up and late in 1938 the Provincial Government voted $350,000. for its construction. The outbreak of war intercepted the start of the erection of the building. Although such an Institute is most urgent now, in war time, in order to cope with the increased demands for public health work of the Armed Forces and the federal government, it was not possible to obtain permission to build during the emergency.

Finally, in view of the fact that the establishment of a scheme for either Federal or Provincial Health Insurance to be set up in the near future is acknowledged, the immediate need for an Institute for Preventive Medicine seems obvious.

Therefore, the Women's School for Citizenship strongly urges that this Institute be constructed at the earliest possible opportunity, both for its own sake and as a nucleus for a Faculty of Preventive Medicine.

VIII. Preservation of Forests

Ignorance and greed have destroyed most of the forests in the whole world and are rapidly doing so here in British Columbia. It is our duty to our Province and to our country to preserve these forests and, at the same time, we have to do our utmost to make them a source of lumber for those areas in the world which are already deprived of forests.

Forests preserve water, the lifeblood of the earth, and keep the ground water table high, thus providing natural fertilization of the soil. Forests also produce healthful air and we could develop our Province to a Health Resort for the whole of North America and become for the Americas what Switzerland is for Europe. But with devastation of the forests, the water would disappear, as it has already disappeared in the Okanagan Valley where the water has to be brought from the third mountain range in costly irrigation pipes which also give additional labor to all the fruit growing farmers. A devastated area is also an eyesore with which we never will attract tourists for this Province.

This does not mean that our logging industry would have to cease. But new laws are necessary in order to regulate the new forest policy:

VIII. Preservation of Forests (Continued)

(a) Limitation of the yearly crop of lumber to annual growth of trees.

(b) Better harvesting methods. Close cropping has to be strictly forbidden; summit logging the same, because soil erosion starts on bare summits of mountains first.

(c) Reforesting of devastated areas has to be done according to the newest methods of mixed planting.

(d) Fire and insect protection. Ways through forests have to be cut as chief fire protection and a new and highly developed forest service has to be installed.

This new forest policy would provide work for many thousands of forest workers and give permanent jobs to a large number of foresters. The expense to the Government would be met with double interest by a flourishing tourist, health and logging industry, whereas the methods of logging nowadays give enormous profits for certain logging firms but will leave the whole Province in a terrifyingly short time bare, naked, devastated and starving. An intensified forest management can actually be made a paying proposition even for our generation and certainly for our children, which means that it would reap a profit for the whole country.

The above are the carefully considered recommendations of the Vancouver Women's School for Citizenship. It is our hope and desire that these plans should be included in any post-war rehabilition schemes for British Columbia.

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JAMES W. SOMERS, O.B.E.
CITY CLERK

CITY OF TORONTO
CITY CLERK'S DEPARTMENT
CITY HALL
TORONTO 2, CANADA
ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO THE CITY CLERK

RECEIVED
NOV 12 1942
PREMIER'S OFFICE

November 6, 1942.

Hon. John Hart,
Prime Minister,
British Columbia,

Dear Sir:

I beg to forward herewith a copy of a Resolution adopted by the Council of the Corporation of the City of Toronto at its meeting held on Monday, November 2nd, 1942, viz.:

RESOLVED: "Whereas the struggle for security against aggression from without should be accompanied by a search for security within; now therefore be it recommended that Council do petition the Dominion Government to establish in collaboration with the Provincial Governments, a Royal Commission, or other body, to examine and report on ways and means whereby, so far as may be, security from fear and want may justly and fairly be established for every man, woman and child in Canada; and that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Government of each Province and each Municipality in Canada, with a request that they memorialize the Federal and Provincial Governments to the same effect."

In compliance with the direction contained therein, I respectfully request your Government to take appropriate action to memorialize the Dominion Government along similar lines.

Yours truly,

J. W. Somers

City Clerk.

GAW/Mc