

## Essentials For Success in The Institute

By Geo. A. Putnam, Superintendent for Ontario

Since this copy of "Home and Country" is to go to all the members of the Institute, we think it well to take advantage of the opportunity to present some of the essentials which have made for success in the Institutes and some of the outstanding needs at the present time.

On the first of March next, I will have finished thirty years' happy association with the Women's Institutes and take great pleasure in passing on to the officers and members at this time my sincere appreciation for the earnestness shown in making toward greater efficiency on the part of mothers and daughters, a realization of their responsibility in the home and in the community, the leadership which they have given toward a sane, social structure and judicious community service, a readiness to do their part in providing relief and assistance to those who have met with misfortune, and the example set by the women of rural Ontario in co-operative effort, co-operation so far as local groups are concerned and co-operation with services available through the Department of Agriculture and other branches of Government service. Evidence of the benefits derived are to be found throughout all sections of rural Ontario in the ability to provide adequate nutrition at a minimum of cost, in making for comfort and health, in construction, arrangement and equipment in the home, in the application of recognized laws in preserving health, and providing for the proper development of youth.

While much has been accomplished, the possibilities for further advance are unlimited, so we make our appeal to the officers and members to continue to appreciate the fact that the women of practical experience, especially those on the farm, have much of value for each other in the multiplicity of responsibilities which come to the homemaker.

Do not fail, therefore, at your regular monthly meetings and, if you will, group meetings by those who can conveniently meet oftener than once a month, to pass on to each other the methods successfully followed in providing for the needs of the family through home grown products, utilizing to the best advantage home equipment, and providing the necessary supplies and equipment to meet emergencies in sickness and accident. The women of rural Ontario are not generally conscious of the fact that their success will be recorded in the pages of history as one of the greatest, if not the greatest, accomplishment of women in any country, as stated by a recent historian who has made a world wide investigation of country women in council.

While there have been differences of opinion as to methods of carrying on and rules to be followed, the splendid spirit of service has always surmounted minor difficulties, and we find faithful, interested women of all parties, sects and nationalities, working harmoniously in the best interests of community life and national stabilization.

One could write indefinitely of the masterly manner in which the country women of Ontario have given judicious, earnest leadership in their local, district and area undertakings, but we shall divert to Departmental service.

The funds available through Government sources have been somewhat reduced during the past two years, in keeping with the general policy of retrenchment found necessary on the part of the Government, and the Institutes have willingly accept-

ed the reduction. With some readjustments in our methods of providing service through Conventions, district meetings, short courses and various group meetings, instead of the usual summer series, and latterly the publication of "Home and Country," we have been able to maintain a service which compares favorably with that of former years—in fact, in one respect the results have been most gratifying, for it has created in the minds of the members generally a keener sense of their responsibilities and a fuller realization of the fact that the benefits derived through educational service and organization work are dependent to a very large degree upon the personal effort of those concerned. The members are coming to appreciate the fact that they are not so much in need of additional literature on nutrition, health and other lines of interest as they are to make a careful study individually and in groups of the splendid literature available and which is referred to in detail in another section of this issue of "Home and Country"; so let us appeal to the officers and members to make a very careful study, especially of the literature bearing on nutrition and health. We will make announcements from time to time regarding literature available and the services to be secured through the Institutes Branch. In the meantime, we wish to announce that a number of Three-Months and One-Month Courses for rural girls and young men will be held in December, January and February; and when announcements are made, we trust that the Women's Institutes will do their part in inducing the young people to take advantage of these classes, which enable the participants to garner information which will be of value to them throughout life, but the greatest value lies in starting them on the right road and placing them in touch with sources of information and inspiration, and the formation of new links of friendship and co-operation which will be among their most valued associations and memories in after life.

The Institutes have taken it for granted evidently that since a policy of retrenchment has been introduced, they should hesitate to ask for instructors for Three-Day or Two-Week Courses in Nutrition, Home Nursing and First Aid, and Sewing. The fact is that the expenditure on these short courses has been reduced to a greater degree than in any other line of service, so we wish to state to the Institutes that for the next few months, at least, the funds available will enable us to provide instructors to all who may apply and who are prepared to meet the requirements which will be supplied to those who make enquiry. Briefly, we may state that the locality concerned is required to provide a suitable hall, or in some cases a private home, free of cost to the Department. The only charge to the members of a Two-Week Class is Twenty-five Cents for Institute members and Fifty Cents for non-members; while for the Three-Day Courses, it is left with the instructor and the members of the class to make such collection as is found necessary to cover the local expenses.

It is recognized that while much has been done in acquiring a greater knowledge of nutrition, there is a great need for creating a more general interest and a more systematic effort toward the production and utilization of Canadian grown products in providing for the needs of the family; so the Minister of Agri-

culture has directed that special cooking schools be held in centres where groups of Institutes can take advantage of the instruction. Four of these trial schools have been held with an average attendance of over two hundred at each of the twelve sessions and many words of appreciation have been received and valuable follow-up work has resulted. Announcement of further effort along this line will be made in due course.

It would appear that with the money available, we shall extend the number of centres to be served in the Summer Series of Meetings, so we would advise at this time that the Branch and District Officers make their plans to hold, say, four meetings where three were held last year, and we can assure all that a most efficient staff will be given an opportunity for special preparation for the task in hand, for we recognize that the possibilities are very great for making this feature of service of increasing value.

The members of the staff in the Institutes Branch when not engaged in Field Work are devoting considerable time to preparing Loan Collections for the use of members who wish to prepare papers and addresses for the regular monthly meetings and special occasions. The folders already available include information on:

### Loan Papers

Art as Applied to Pictures.  
Autumn in Nature.  
Bee Keeping for Women.  
Bird Guessing Contest.  
Canadian Women of Note.  
Civics.  
Criticism—How to Avoid, etc.  
Clothing the Family — Miss Collins.

What should Christmas mean to me?  
Good Manners in the Home.  
Debate—The Pioneer Woman.  
Economies we may all practice and enjoy.

Teachers, Parents and Children.

The Child, the Parent and the Teacher.  
Farm Beautification.  
Cutting, Care and Arrangements of Flowers.  
Foods for Storage—Mrs. Jas. Patterson.  
Uses of Salt.  
Interior Decoration.  
The Influence of Associates.  
Plays.  
Family Budget.  
China or Porcelain — Wedgwood.  
Christmas Entertaining.  
Preparation of a Child for School.

Influence of Environment.  
Fireless Cooker, Home-made.  
Outdoor Farm Decoration.  
Perennials for Home Beautification.  
Menus—Resourcefulness.  
Possibilities of a Kitchen Garden.

Home and Country.  
A Woman's Influence in Making a Home Attractive.  
Personal Responsibility for One's Own Health.  
Careful Cleansing of Spring Fabrics.

The Versatility of Eggs.  
A Step That Leads to Peace.  
Is My Daughter Safe at College?  
Left Overs Should Not be Left Over.

More Thought for Safety.  
Exercising the Baby.  
Mysterious Differences in Children.

How Much: The Problem for the Food Buyer.

This is not a complete list of the available information, but we will be glad to receive enquiries on all questions of interest to Institute members and if we are not able to provide material will undertake to co-operate with the Packet Loan Library at Guelph

and other service branches in securing the material asked for.

The collection of material under the subjects announced herein has entailed much labour and the Institutes are invited to take advantage of this special service.

Application should be made for material ten days or two weeks in advance of the time it is required for use.

The aim of the Department will be to keep in close touch with the Institutes through the publication of "Home and Country" as occasion requires throughout the year and to make the service as outlined above and any additional features which may be planned of as great value as possible, and we confidently expect the individual branches to make their educational programme of increasing worth.

Some branches take the attitude that since they are not able to raise funds as readily as some few years ago, the value of the Institute has decreased. Not necessarily so. The worth of the Institute consists in its educational value, the assistance which it can give in advice, service and co-operation to the needy, support of community undertakings, and the opportunities which it can provide along social lines; so, do not be discouraged because of a decrease in financial resources. The trying times through which we have been passing have been the means of strengthening the bonds of friendship and co-operation; so the advice of the Department and your Provincial Board is not to disband a branch or slacken your efforts at a time when the need is so great, both so far as the individual, the family, and the community are concerned.

## Does This Apply to Your Branch

Extracts from Reports of Recent Months

1. "The branches are vastly improved during the past five years, and there is every reason to be pleased with the wonderful influence for good being exerted by these Institutes."

2. "A healthy attitude toward local needs as well as farther afield; toward social life and the coming homemakers and citizens. With much splendid talent still available but not at present being utilized, much may be accomplished, as there is marked ability."

3. "A good feeling exists and the members appear to be seeking a good time among themselves. Parties appear to be of greater interest than courses or neighborliness. The officers, who are new each year apparently have failed to grasp the educational value of the Institutes."

4. "Fine, intelligent group of women, but whose interpretation of Education is scholastic rather than mental or vocational, and fail to grasp the fact that nutrition is more than cooking; clothing something beyond sewing and home nursing means more than just work which must be done, finding no relationship between these things and a happy home and right living?"

5. "A lack of tactful understanding as to the limitations of the privileges of office, where the president dominates all activities."

6. "Good, live, homey branches with good talent and good spirit and broad vision of usefulness. Attending to community needs and find both time and assistance for broad service, co-operating well with other organizations."

7. "The branches visited seem to depend upon talent outside their membership, rather than utilizing and developing themselves."

8. "The stimulus of the De-

partmental services is required to maintain the high educational aspect of the Institute."

9. "Need higher intellectual standard of officers. 2. Hindered by limited opportunities. 3. Absence of social ethics and courtesies due visiting members or officers of other branches."

10. "Drifting to social life and entertainment from outside talent and congenial companionship, rather than to the educational, or service work which may tend to better home and community life."

## How the Federation Has Assisted

By Miss M. V. Powell

If we consider the literal interpretation of the term "Federation" we cannot but be confident that this is a most fitting application of the word, in connection with our Women's Institutes, "Federation," or in other words, "leagued together," or "united in common governments."

How truly does this apply to the Federated Women's Institutes, which is a linking together of the representatives of the local groups of members, from which is chosen by the common consent of the members themselves the provincial body, the members of which are in "league together" for more effective service to and on behalf of the local groups and the individual members.

The federation has indeed rendered service by upholding the morale and prestige of the organization side by side with other important national and international organizations.

It has been and is the official means of expression for all the branches. It has discharged its responsibility in part by an equalization of the delegates' expenses when attending Convention Areas.

It encourages the branches to reach every possible needy woman to interest and help her.

The federation also co-operates with all departments of government, but especially with the Department of Agriculture, in every way possible for the advancement and in the interests of the rural women who form the membership of the organization.

In minor and more direct ways the provincial board assists all areas in financing their annual conventions, in providing for the area conventions as well as newly organized branches, copies of the Institute song sheets, the use of which adds greatly to the pleasure and enjoyment of Institute gatherings.

By contributions of material of province-wide interest to the Institutes' publication "Home and Country" it has direct contact with individual branches, as well as by the appointment and support of conveners of Standing Committees through whom the work of the Institutes in general has become more uniform and is constantly developing educational and cultural talent among the members.

In addition to this, the provincial federation through the contacts provided to the members of the Board, who are elected by the women to represent the various groups in the areas and sub-divisions, gives to these members a broader vision of the possibilities, a keener realization of the importance of the work in which they are engaged; a deeper respect for their fellow home-maker and a more adequate knowledge of the dignity of her calling, which gives an added respect and poise to everyone. The federation then has and does assist the branches in a practical and also an ethical way to render more acceptable and efficient service to their homes and communities, thus fulfilling the aim of this unique and worthwhile organization.