

to the various departments of work, e.g., one on health, another on education, agriculture, immigration, etc., then let the convener of laws arrange for resumé of some aspect of the law affecting health, education, etc. Volumes containing all acts of Parliament are usually to be found in the public libraries, or short extracts of such subjects are in the Handy Guide. An interesting 10 minutes would be to have members in rotation give a resumé of current events, both local, National and International, or the current events could be used as a roll call.

Suggested roll call: The names of your trustees, councillors and members of parliament; what departments are there in your council and what do they do and how are they run? Do not forget to have a question drawer. Even if you have a speaker it is better for questions to be written and not signed, as many members are too shy to get up to speak, and, particularly on legislation questions, they do not always want their interest in a special subject laid open to the meeting. A question drawer is a great help to the speaker too, as it gives her a chance to find out what the members really wish to hear discussed. If the Legislation Convener takes the question drawer, she should never be afraid to say that she does not know the correct answer, but she can offer to find out before the next meeting. The most prominent lawyers and judges are ever willing to help out a Convener of Legislation, and no one person, even the most expert, could always be able to give a correct opinion on the spur of the moment.

The Amusement Tax Act was amended to raise the amusement tax on all amusements, though it will not be levied on tickets of 25 cents or under until that part of the Act is proclaimed.

Another matter is of interest to the many of you who are mortgagors or mortgagees of property. It has been brought to the notice of the Government the urgent need of moratorium on mortgages if a great number of persons owning taxed property with a mortgage against it were not to lose it all in these times of stress.

Community Activities

Convener, Mrs. Wm. Grattan,
General Delivery,
Port Arthur, Ont.

"Do something for others always whatever may be our creeds, There's nothing on earth can help ourselves as much as kindly deeds."

In our community activities kindly deeds are outstanding.

In compiling this report we are gratified to find the branches are consciously and unconsciously ministering to the many needs locally. The year's record has been one of growth and achievement throughout all sections of the Province.

There has been a very human touch to our constructive efforts.

One branch conceived the idea of Singing Christmas Carols to the shut-ins of the town. A committee in charge compiled a list of the shut-ins, the sick, the lame, the blind and aged. About fifty homes were visited. After having the plan announced from the different pulpits, the people met at one church. Three captains were chosen and sides called from group assembled. Each group had a cornet player which proved a fine addition. As one heard the united voices of young and old, of bass and treble

wafted on the chill and quiet midnight air, one caught the vision of long ago—when Christ was born in Bethlehem, and the angels sang: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Towards Men."

What finer community work could a branch do than renew the real Spirit of Christmas? Christ—mass.

Community picnics have been very successful.

One branch reported a most successful picnic, and decided it was not necessary to travel afar to have a good time. Others reported garden parties, fowl suppers, corn roasts, socials, etc.

Grandmothers have been entertained. Many branches held a service on Remembrance Day. Others report helping hospital wards, care of cemeteries, memorial parks, community halls, local fairs, school fairs, street lights and motor league signs.

One district reported their largest branch opened up a camping ground for motorists—last year they erected a flag pole, also dug a well for the accommodation of the public. Surely we have some good Samaritans.

Many donated to Public Libraries, others are assisting libraries in various ways. Many have created an interest in better literature and promoted interest in travelling libraries.

"While you converse with lords and dukes,
I have my betters here, my books,

While in my elbow chair at ease,
I choose companions as I please."

One secretary writes:—"Our membership is small and I feel we have not done anything spectacular, but we look after our community and have a very sisterly feeling in our branch." What better could any branch do? Remember, "A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump."

The people throughout the country have not had a great deal of money to spend on pleasure or on unnecessary things, but despite this state of affairs, judging by the reports of conveners, the Women's Institutes have not allowed this to lessen the community activities of the Branches. Through their social evenings and concerts, one branch was able to present the Deed of the Community Hall to the Trustees. Another wired their Community Hall and supplied it with silverware. They also have moved and wired a shed. This branch gives much credit to the men of the district, some men giving as much as ten days work in helping with their undertakings.

A branch giving One Hundred Dollars toward the upkeep of the community hall has the use of it for their meetings and entertainments for their investment. Several branches report work done in caring for cemeteries. Booths at local fairs entertained the Rotary Clubs, and similar activities proved both enjoyable and profitable.

Most branches entertained the grandmothers, picnics for the community, helped with Christmas trees, sponsored plays, hockey matches and suppers. Had sales of home-made baking, apron sales and made autograph quilts. One branch arranged the service for Armistice Day and sold poppies. They had an Honor Roll placed in the Town Hall.

The Institutes are to be congratulated on the work they are doing and any community without an Institute is missing a great deal.

Then the creation of a rural civilization is the greatest need of our time. The problem is not to bring people back to the land, but to keep those who are on the

land contented, happy and prosperous.

All rural social workers should work together in unity of spirit and purpose. The schoolhouses in rural centres should be used for social activities. All creeds and classes feel more at home in a school house than they do in a church of any one denomination, and the young people will be more attracted to the schoolhouse than the town hall. In some centres a community hall has been built. In other centres the farmers and their families have yet to see the necessity of such a building. The new school building should include an assembly room which could be used as a community gathering place for all social affairs. This, of course, needs the backing of the community in general.

The benefits of the social centre movement are many. Such centres provide a place and an opportunity for self expression not always found in rural life—expression of opinions upon many matters and expression in play for both young and old. It is a means of organizing acquaintanceship.

The young people who have been born and brought up on the farm, with their wealth of idealism and enthusiasm, will make the best leaders; for a permanent resident leadership is more valuable than that of an occasional visitor.

Relief

Convener, Mrs. W. A. Woltz,
48 Grand St., Brantford, Ont.

From reports received we gather that there has been a real bearing of each other's burdens this year.

Many Township Councils have called representatives of the Women's Institutes to work with their Relief Committee—as investigators in homes and to distribute relief.

All Public Institutions have been generously assisted. Sanatoriums, Hospitals, Children's Shelters, Homes for the Aged have received fruit, vegetables, quilts, pillows and clothing.

The usual help has been given expectant mothers who were unable to give themselves a fair chance.

A great many branches found it an excellent plan to work through the school and welfare nurses, who were able to report under-nourished and poorly clothed children. Members have salvaged an enormous quantity of outgrown or partly worn clothing and given it a new lease of life and usefulness.

Bales were sent north and were distributed by branch and district officers to the best possible advantage.

Thousands of quilts, articles of clothing, jars of fruit, baskets of vegetables and groceries,—deeds of neighbourly kindness beyond counts stand to the credit of the relief workers in our branches.

Many babies have been taken care of, the aged comforted and the lonely cheered.

A goodly store of fruits and vegetables are done up ready for coming need, untold kindness has been shown to the pre-school child, school children and weary mothers, as also to unemployed men.

It may be helpful to hear a few new ways in which the branches have given assistance.

A lady who was ill and obliged to go away for several weeks was sent a package each week, each package containing seven other packages one of which was to be opened each day. Some of the articles were absorbent

cotton, disinfectants, paper handkerchiefs, toilet soap, Vitone, cocoa, a tuck-in-pillow, etc.

One dear lady of over 80 years of age knitted 9 pairs of mittens.

A record in quilt making goes to one branch making six in one season.

We quote from one of the reports as follows: "One of the greatest pleasures this committee has had and will long linger in our minds, was the playing of Santa Claus to a family of children whose mother was in the mental hospital. A victrola and 60 records, (a donation by a friend of the W. I.) basket of food, apples, candies, nuts, fruit, tablecloth, woollen blankets, two quilts, jams, jellies, books, toys for the younger children, and a pair of new shoes and stockings for each child. To see the delight and gratitude of these children and their father has more than paid for the work entailed."

This poor man's table was spread with plenty that day and do you notice that the tablecloth was not forgotten. Now the cloth was not necessary but it was important, particularly at that time.

The women of Ontario fully realize the significance of two words, namely, "Necessary and Important."

One of the most interesting phases of Relief, which all have undoubtedly had to share in and yet no one has reported, is the feeding of the tramp. One hears very interesting stories in this connection. We cannot underestimate either those calls made by W. I. members upon women who need just neighborliness.

Two districts report on several cases where the W. I. is co-operating with the Township Welfare board. W. I. co-operation with these boards will mean a great deal this winter. Any branch interested in this policy of relief as assisted by the Government, Province and County, may secure particulars from Mr. Wallace R. Campbell, chairman of the advisory committee on Direct Relief by the Provincial Government of Ontario, on Administrative Methods in matter of Direct Relief in Ontario. When this form of Relief is in operation, the W. I. work will be necessarily a little different. Don't let us forget that our neighborliness is ever more important under these circumstances. The Christmas season gives us a wonderful opportunity to show this spirit with our baskets of cheer. The names of the families can be secured from the Welfare Board—continued interest in these families is important.

The unemployed farm boy is a problem; many cases come before the Welfare Boards. If it is possible for any one of us to take one of these boys and board him in return for his labor and give him 25 to 50 cents a week.

Many farmers have an extra building on their farm where a stove, a cot and a few blankets could be placed for emergency use. Possibly a man housed like this could work in the neighborhood for his meals.

As a last suggestion, have one member of your branch as convener of clothing, and, if possible, keep some good second-hand clothing on hand for emergency. You will find plenty of opportunity for distribution during the winter. Let us give "not grudgingly or of necessity for God loveth a cheerful giver," keeping in mind He is giving us an opportunity to serve our fellowman. Some may give of their substance, and some of their time, all are privileged, so serve in some measure.

Historical Research

Convener, Miss E. Appelbe,
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There is no "depression" in the work of Historical Research. If there is anyone out of a job it is from lack of interest and not from scarcity of work. History is always in the making and from convention areas conveners show that we have still something to do.

We quote from Hamilton Area report which says: "It is heartening to know that each year more Institutes are taking some time for this subject, and are beginning to realize the pleasure and benefit derived from this study"; while the Kingston report makes this statement: "Hardly a branch in this area but tried, according to reports, to incorporate in its annual program in some form its interest in Historical Research and Current Events."

Continuous effort has been made to impress members with the necessity of preserving and forwarding copies of original papers, and good results are noted.

It may not be generally known that we have several Institutes composed of Indian women. For the first time we have received evidence of their interest in the form of a history of the coming to Canada of the Oneida's from New York State in 1840.

There is rich material in the far northern sections of the Province and we welcome the few reports that have come this year. For the first time Rainy River district reported.

One outstanding activity in Central Ontario during the year has been the establishing of the nucleus of a museum in Guelph for Wellington County. Through the kindness of Dr. Christie, a room equipped with a fireproof vault, in the new main building of the Ontario Agricultural College, has been loaned for the purpose.

In Simcoe County, old in settlement and rich in history, the Institutes have another museum, established in Barrie a few years ago.

Last winter the Canadian Women's Historical Society of Toronto held an Historic Loan Exhibition. This exhibition created intense interest; all sorts of family treasures, carefully guarded, were displayed and every afternoon and evening it was crowded with visitors.

A similar exhibition might prove very profitable in the smaller cities and in the towns.

The Provincial Convener of Research attended the forty-seventh annual meeting of the American Historical Association, held in Canada for the first time, by invitation of the University of Toronto during Christmas week, 1932.

In many places there have been exhibitions of antiques. Have lists of these articles been kept and the names of the owners recorded?

We would like to have a survey of the old rural cemeteries, and a record kept of inscriptions on tombstones, one copy for local record, and the other sent to the provincial convener.

If some one in each branch, or even two or three in each district, would write the story of an ordinary day's doings on the farm, or a day of village life, and another a threshing day, or somebody's wedding, a fall fair or a day in a kitchen, and describe in connection with these the food that was prepared and served, the clothing worn, and various other details, we would have a wonderful picture of every day life in rural Ontario in 1933.

Mrs. Boyes of Simcoe County reports: "Many in our county