

Historical Research (Cont'd)

have been living in an atmosphere of historical research, as numbers of the pioneers came to Simcoe in 1832." Then Mrs. Boyes tells of several centenary celebrations, while the Belleville convener seems to love every stone in Northumberland and Hastings. There are two rural homes in Ontario that have been kept intact owned and occupied by the same families since the day they were built. The retiring convener of the Kingston area lives in one of them, the old Fairfield house near Bath.

In the Walkerton Area: Drayton keeps a loose leaf note book to which are added stories and records as they come in. Among those will be the life stories of those whose names are on the war memorial.

Western Ontario:

Reports and talks on histories of business places and story of Tinker's line, pioneer food dishes and linen, a pioneer industry. Industries of a county particularly manufacturing, in smaller towns and villages seventy years ago, descriptions of villages and place names: demonstration of handicrafts; spinning loom-making, straw weaving; making of soap and candles; oldest grist mills of Ontario and some of their dusty millers; old salt creek cemetery.

One branch invited old residents to outline town's history and presented a play in which old-time costumes were worn.

Plaque was placed on site of Iron Foundry at Normandale.

St. Mary's has current events scrap book, newspaper cuttings of town happenings are brought to monthly meetings and pasted in the book. South Leeds also has a scrap book for current events.

Haldimand held public speaking contest first in branches and then in district annual. Subject: Contributions of pioneer women.

One Institute invited some Indians from the reserve to tell of Indian history when the subject was splendidly dealt with by Mr. Moses who brought with him priceless relics and interesting articles and explained their use. Niagara held a pageant on history of Niagara River. Welland sent to Dominion Archives for original maps and compiled stories of roads and transportation.

Stories of the passing of the mills, blacksmith shop and livery stables. Papers on spinning, weaving, threshing, cider-making and old-fashioned ways of entertaining.

Two Junior Institutes in Welland sent reports. Various centenary celebrations have been held and many more will follow in the next two years. They are making records of roads and railroads, compiling histories of transportation.

Belleville Area had a summary of first paper printed in Belleville and report of first Council Meeting in 1790. Story of money-making devices of pioneer days. One branch had a paper solely of local history dated back to a century ago, every farm and every piece of land in River Valley and neighborhood was described, customs, tendencies of those days, owners of these lands, subsequent owners or tenants up to present day. Much of this information was received from a life member who is now almost ninety years of age.

Roll Calls: Events of note in our own county during past year, or names of pioneer settlers of country, and each member brought photograph of great, or great, grand-parents, giving short account of their settlement in county.

Canadian Industries

Convener, Mrs. J. M. Percival, R. R. No. 1, Addison, Ont.

Practically all branches in the thirteen Convention Areas are devoting time and thought to this subject, both at the regular monthly meetings and during the intervening time to the study and advancement of the Industries of Canada.

Branch meetings have dealt with industries in general or some specific industry, local, county or provincial as the major theme of the day. This is taken up through roll calls, papers, addresses, exhibits, contests and discussions, nearly every branch devoting at least one meeting to this subject. Some branches have featured exhibits or displays put up by manufacturers at district annual meetings and conventions.

County displays, branch visiting tours, and other attractive features have been noted by conveners and presented to each of the convention gatherings with suggestions for possible work throughout the area.

Manufacturers co-operating with local branches or districts in staging displays at Agricultural Fall Fairs have met with splendid results, creating interest and dispersing knowledge.

Special surveys have been made and time devoted to the study of foods, raw and finished products, home consumption, export and import trade.

Clothing has been considered first, the study of raw materials and their classes, as cotton, silk, wool, rayon, threads, yarns, etc., the extent to which we supply both raw material and finished product and the labour employed in the manufacturing operations, also the qualities, capacity for absorbing and retaining dyes, and many other educational features.

Under housing, we have learned something of the available types and quantities of wood for doors, trims, chairs, broom and brush handles, and other purposes—and their care.

Minerals and metals as used for stoves, housing equipment, door and window trims, asbestos, aluminum and other metals. Floors and floor coverings, grades and values; paints, varnishes and finishes, all have been carefully noted.

The surveys disclosed the fact that Ontario homes could be built and equipped, families comfortably and attractively clothed, and adequately nourished almost entirely within the Province and Dominion, and abundantly within the Empire. The use of films and pictures showing manufacturing processes of different plants has developed and maintained interest in this work.

A "progress week" in which textiles were featured, films, addresses and displays of Canadian plants and fabrics proved of intense educational value and attracted a large number of visitors to the firm featuring this exhibit.

A Canadian Industries Day was put on by one branch, for which they secured samples from several manufacturing firms. These were exhibited and a talk or explanation given, drawing attention to the quality. One company brought the information that their products were made entirely of Ontario grown wheat.

A wheel of knowledge and educational charts were distributed to each member giving valuable general information of the Dominion, in addition to samples of soap, cereals or biscuits.

Local grocers have co-operated with branches in putting on a display of package and bulk

JUNIOR WORK

A rural university is available for rural girls in Ontario through the Women's Institutes Branch, Department of Agriculture. In the East and West, North and South, farm girls attend Short Courses, Coaching Classes, Judging Competitions and Junior Institute meetings and carry on Club Programs and Projects.

In the Short Courses the girls receive instruction in Foods and Cookery, Laundry, Household Administration, House Planning and Decoration, Home Nursing and First Aid and Sewing.

For the 1933 Coaching Classes the girls are coached in Nutrition, that is, Family Menus and School Lunches; Clothing, Selection of Garments and Patching.

Projects give girls an opportunity to carry on study groups in Nutrition, Clothing, Canning and Home Beautification. Girls meet regularly and follow the course outlined, keep Food Selection Scores and Health Charts, take part in discussions, prepare papers, put on demonstrations with the assistance of subject matter submitted with projects. They study Menu Planning and prepare food; the selection and care of clothing, and make garments; food value of fruits and vegetables and canning methods and can garden produce; or home beautification and draw plans of home grounds and improve home planting according to the project they undertake. Record books are kept showing subject matter on project, personal application of information and actual work accomplished.

Achievement Days are held in various counties where the girls exhibit their work and project books and put on an educational program, featuring special phases of the various projects.

In the Junior Institutes the girls plan and carry on well balanced programs considering topics of special interest to rural girls and homemakers. The girls conduct their meetings in a business-like manner, prepare papers, give demonstrations, thus securing an endless supply of most helpful and practical knowledge. They are at the same time learning to think out their own problems, discuss them, and express their conclusions intelligently and with poise and assurance.

Economically this work is very important. The Juniors learn how to spend money wisely, how

goods, accompanying this with an explanatory talk on the difference in these commodities and the cost. One County in Ontario supplied Tomato Puree for the Campbell Company.

Bulletins from the Dominion Department prepared for household buyers and merchants were placed in the Public Library. Branches are studying Canadian Coal products.

Radio broadcast on "wool" and "fish" arranged through the co-operation and courtesy of the C. M. A., created much interest in these lines. Canadian fabrics were used in the "clothing" section of the 314 coaching classes, for judging competition work where 4,074 girls judged miniature house dresses, made of these fabrics. Literature has been distributed to each district in the Province, relative to some phase of Industrial life, this has been discussed by local groups.

Publicity has been given through the avenue of radio and press dealing with industrial features, and giving definite information on definite industries.

A Tea, Sale and Exhibit was

to utilize available material to the best advantage and their earning capacity is increased.

Due to the Nutrition and Health Knowledge available to them, building for health, keeping fit, adhering to proper nutrition and health habits is now considered a personal obligation for each individual Junior.

As a result of these classes and clubs the girls have more than ever before a definite aim to seek for themselves continuous individual growth and development. They have a clearer vision of what they may accomplish as individuals in the home and as citizens provided they have definite ideals before them of an all round development and work to attain it.

A large proportion of the funds available for Junior work during the current year was utilized in One-Month and Three-Months Short Courses held in December, January and February, so the amount available for Coaching Classes, Achievement Days and Competitions was rather limited. The programme provided for trained instructors to devote from three to five days in each county instructing groups of girls who had had some previous experience in Coaching Classes, Short Courses, Royal Trip, etc., as to how the programme could be carried out through these girls acting as leaders and instructors to those with little or no training along the lines chosen. The programme included Nutrition and Clothing, and it is very gratifying to be able to report that the girls who took advantage of the rather limited programme derived much benefit therefrom.

The exhibits at Achievement Days showed most satisfactory results in Garden and Canning Club work, Clothing, Nutrition and Home Beautification projects. Trained instructors were furnished for fifty-one counties and districts and fifty-one competitions have been or will be held. The attendance at the county competitions thus far held ranged from eight to sixty-three with an average of thirty-one. The Inter-county Competitions held at Ottawa, Toronto, London and Peterborough attracted very satisfactory numbers of keenly interested girls who showed marked ability along the lines covered in the year's programme.

We shall, early in the year, make announcement of programme for Juniors for 1934.

successfully featured of "Made in Canada."

Our women are becoming more and more interested in Canadian goods of all kinds and manufacturers throughout Ontario and other provinces are constantly extending assistance and co-operation in every possible way, for the benefit of both producer and consumer.

Educational work through the means already referred to, has resulted in a better understanding between producer and consumer, a higher regard for the manufactured article and keen appreciation in support of Canadian qualities and values in comparison with imported goods.

This year we are concentrating on the study of footwear, especially shoes.

Relief

The Federation will continue to pay transportation charges on goods donated for shipment to other centres. Branches which have supplies to forward will please give the Institutes Branch a list of the articles or general description of goods ready for shipment, and they will be furnished with directions as to where to send the goods.

What the Institute Has Meant to Me

By Miss Laurena Rutherford, Member of Vellore W. Institute, R. R. 2, Woodbridge, York Co., Ont.

On leaving High School one of my duties was to learn to drive the car so that I could take my mother, along with the neighboring ladies to the Institute meeting. In this way I became a member of the Senior Branch. Our branch is entirely rural and the meetings are held at the homes of the members. Our trips to and from the meetings have been very pleasant and many interesting stories of local history have been discussed as we travel along. The beautiful scenery, sunsets, crops and gardens have been admired and I have often returned home glad that the Women's Institute had called me out for the afternoon.

There are ten girls in our Senior Branch. A number is contributed at each meeting by one of the Juniors. One girl is Secretary-Treasurer, another pianist, and two others are Chairmen of Standing Committees.

The educational efforts, social activities and community service of the Women's Institute have always maintained a very high standard, and being a member of such an organization of rural women, must make one better fitted to make a contribution to the home and community life of the county.

One of the highest and noblest desires of any girl today is that she may become a well informed efficient Home-Maker and the question arises where may she get it? The Short Courses in sewing, house furnishing, home nursing and nutrition, available through the Women's Institute Branch of the Department of Agriculture, have meant much to me. I have attended a week's short course and a three-months course. As a result of the instruction received in food value, health, sewing and home decorating I have been able to take part in the county judging competition.

Judging competitions with their coaching classes have real educational value. I have enjoyed meeting other girls in our county and it also aids in fostering a county consciousness. Putting forth an honest effort brings the reward of having attempted something worth while. A fund of practical and valuable information is acquired.

I have been fortunate in winning the Chicago, Ottawa and Royal Trips, also a Short Course at Guelph for prizes donated by our county in the competitions and made possible by the Department of Agriculture. I am sure these trips will always be the high spots in my Institute life. The opportunity afforded in sight-seeing, visiting well known and established plants, banqueting, meeting the 4 H Club winners from the different States at Chicago and girls of our own province in the Royal Party has an educational value that can scarcely be surpassed.

My experience as an Institute member has been a very happy one. I asked a Senior member if the girls were contributing anything to the Institute? She replied, "An Institute without girls would be like a garden without flowers."

Note re Canadian Comment:

The publishers of this magazine have asked us to announce that their special offer to the Women's Institutes of Two Dollars for two copies to any one Institute is good only to the end of October. This price is just half the usual subscription fee.