

FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF ONTARIO -- ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

The annual Board Meeting, F.W.I.O. was held in the Royal York Hotel, November 23, 24 and 25, 1948, with Mrs. J. R. Futcher, president, presiding.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In welcoming the Board Members, Mrs. Futcher urged a greater knowledge of the duties and obligations of a good citizen. "A higher conception of citizenship is the crying need and there is a stirring within the hearts and minds of many of us in answer to this need. A sound knowledge of the fundamentals of civics and an understanding of social and economic issues is a must if we are to fulfil the duties and obligations of citizenship." "Our organization is in such an admirable position to do this. Our motto 'For Home and Country' leads the way. Training for citizenship starts in the home where we teach honesty, loyalty, co-operation, tolerance and responsibility—all the attributes of a good citizen."

Mrs. Futcher reported having attended all thirteen area conventions and as well having contacted Women's Institute officers in Manitoba and Home Bureau officials in New York State. She listed her many activities including correspondence, contacts with our English visitors, representation on other committees and to other organizations. All in all it brought us to realize what a very full and active life for service our Provincial President lives.

She stated, "As a result of my convention tour I was greatly heartened by the extent and scope of our work and by the splendid type of woman we have within our organization—capable, sincere, friendly and willing to serve unselfishly to meet to-day's need."

BOARD DINNER

At the banquet given by the Government of the Province of Ontario Miss Anna P. Lewis, Director of the Women's Institute Branch and Home Economic Service, welcomed the guests stating, "We have met this evening to honour the board members of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario. Your job is a heavy one for you are the voice of over 43,000 rural women. This is an informal party at which the Board members and officials of the Department of Agriculture become better acquainted." Miss Lewis, after expressing Colonel Kennedy's regret that he himself could not be present, introduced the head table guests.

The Hon. W. A. Goodfellow, Minister of Public Welfare, brought greetings from the government and extended best wishes on behalf of Col. T. L. Kennedy, Prime Minister of the Province. He stated that the contribution of the Women's Institutes is very fine and it is a great satisfaction to know they are carrying on stronger than ever before. "We have many great problems in Ontario and the Women's Institute is assisting in solving them."

Mr. C. D. Graham, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, spoke for his Department saying, "On behalf of my Department, we are happy to welcome you. I bring to you the good wishes for success in the job that lies ahead. We look to the future."

Mr. John Rockwood, Baritone, entertained with musical selections.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

Miss Anna P. Lewis, Director, Women's Institute Branch and Home Economic Service, reported that the present membership in the province stands at 43,289 with 1,364 Institutes. Sixty-eight new Institutes were organized during the year 1947-48; three were re-organized and 18 disbanded. Eighteen additional Institutes have been organized since the April Board Meeting. Of the Institutes organized 20 were Junior and 48 were Senior Women's Institutes.

Miss Lewis announced the appointment of Miss K. Taggart to the staff of the Women's Institute Branch and Home Economic Service, as Supervisor in Home Furnishings and explained other staff additions and



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Front Row (left to right): Miss Olive Maltby, R.R. 1, Woodbridge; Mrs. James Black, Campbellford; Mrs. J. R. Geddes, Mississippi; Miss Anna P. Lewis, Director and Honorary President; Mrs. J. R. Futcher, Provincial President, R.R. 1, St. Thomas; Mr. C. D. Graham, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Toronto; Mrs. Hugh Summers, Honorary President and Resolutions Convener, R.R. 1, Fontbill; Mrs. J. H. McCulloch, Secretary-Treasurer, R.R. 2, Brampton; Miss Marjorie Mitchell, R.R. 1, Hannon; Miss Elsie Little, 670 Norfolk St. N., Simcoe; Mrs. G. G. Maynard, Convener of Historical Research, Unionville.

Centre Row: Mrs. W. A. McGregor, Citizenship Convener, Desboro; Mrs. R. J. M. Kerr, Heathcote; Mrs. H. Alkins, Callander; Mrs. A. Cadeau, Matheson; Mrs. Milton Weber, R.R. 2, West Montrose; Mrs. W. P. Simpson, Byron; Mrs. D. A. Carmichael, Ilderton; Mrs. Ward Benner, Bayham; Mrs. W. Smith, Dayton; Mrs. H. N. Rooney, Atikokan; Mrs. Arthur Hamilton, R.R. 4, Atwood.

Back Row: Mrs. Wilmer Keyes, Home Economics Convener, Wolfe Island; Mrs. W. D. Warner, Publicity Convener, Stamford Centre; Mrs. James Bell, R.R. 3, Coldwater; Mrs. R. G. Purcell, 345 E. Mary St., Fort William; Mrs. C. S. Rickers, 136 Main St., Port Dalhousie; Mrs. J. S. Saunders, R.R. 1, Prescott; Mrs. A. E. Kennedy, Agincourt; Mrs. Carl Moyne, R.R. 1, Oakwood; Mrs. Arthur Hudson, Lyn; Mrs. F. M. Rutherford, Agriculture and Canadian Industries Convener, Campbellford; Mrs. L. A. McEwen, Convener, Social Welfare, Russell.

changes. The names of staff members were given along with their official position. In all 43 persons are on the payroll of the Women's Institute Branch and Home Economics Service working to serve the rural women and girls of this Province through the services offered by the Branch.

In explaining the relationship between the Women's Institute Branch and the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, Miss Lewis entitled her talk "Sincerely and Affectionately Yours." She traced the growth of the Women's Institute movement in Ontario and how the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario and the Women's Institute Branch have "grown up together".

In conclusion she stated, "It is because of you, the rural women and girls of this province that our Branch of the Department of Agriculture exists and it is for you that we function."

SECRETARY-TREASURER F.W.I.O.

Mrs. J. H. McCulloch reported that she had sent out 1604 letters and had filled 531 requests for F.W.I.O. supplies. Life membership certificates were issued for 196 Branch members, and 2 District life members. In presenting her treasurer's report, Mrs. McCulloch stated that she had received 558 individual amounts of money for F.W.I.O. including 86 donations to the Adelaide Hoodless Fund and she had made 27 trips to the Bank.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Institutes reporting through the district and convention area to the Provincial conveners have improved greatly over the past few years. There is still more room for improvement. All conveners advocated the close attention to all information on standing committees such as the sheet "Functions of Standing Committees" supplied through the Department and the Provincial conveners' Outlines of Work which are mailed to all Institutes some time late in January.

Stress was laid that special attention be paid at district annuals to see that the district conveners' reports are forwarded promptly to the area convener. All area conveners' reports must be forwarded to the Provincial convener not later than October 1.

Mrs. G. Wilmer Keyes in presenting her report on Home Economics stated that splendid attention had been paid to all phases of Home Economics work and included demonstrations, exhibits, the showing of filmstrips and slides. Child psychology

courses had proved popular and good use had been made of services available from the Co-operative Program.

The Citizenship report given by Mrs. W. A. McGregor told of the welcome and assistance being given New Canadians by the Institutes. She urged the study of the book "This New Canada" by Margaret MacWilliams and advised Institutes to write to Miss Constance Hayward, Women's Liaison Officer, Secretary of State Department, Ottawa, for further assistance which might be used at Institute meetings and in community projects sponsored by our Institutes.

The Social Welfare report was given by Mrs. L. A. MacEwen who stated that communities have widened their boundaries and now we find rural and urban women working closely together. Each has a contribution to make to the other. A great many Ontario Institutes have adopted Institutes in the Old Land. This worthy project was commended. Mrs. MacEwen urged "Look Forward Not Back".

In a report on Historical Research, Mrs. Gordon Maynard stated, "Our aim is a Tweedsmuir History Book in every Institute. She urged that original deeds of farms be saved. The district of West Lambton held the perfect record of 100% of branches reporting, 100% of districts reporting and a Tweedsmuir History Book in every branch Institute.

Mrs. F. M. Rutherford of Campbellford, in a report on Agriculture and Canadian Industries, stated that the farm labour shortage and the farm housing shortage, are still critical issues on farms. A need for low-priced housing accommodation for farm labour is seen. Many Farm Forums have been organized by Institutes. All over Ontario Institute exhibits are an important feature of fall fairs. The establishment of a definite Canadian Handicraft was suggested. In conclusion Mrs. Rutherford deplored the fact that there are so many unoccupied farms in Ontario for the peace of the world depends on food.

Mrs. W. D. Warner, Publicity convener, spoke of the outstanding contribution the film "Let There Be Light" had made to good publicity for our Institutes. She mentioned that excellent use had been made of press, radio, telephone and stressed the fact that our Institutes can do much for good public relations through contact and co-operation with other organizations.

Miss Marjorie Mitchell, Hannon,

gave the report on the Junior Women's Institute and Homemaking Clubs. She told of the adoption of many overseas children by Junior Institutes. The letters of thanks received from the children for parcels sent were most interesting, being written partly in English and partly in the mother tongue of the child. The Juniors have entertained the Seniors at meetings serving cakes and cookies which they had been taught to make in Homemaking courses. A new enterprise of the Juniors is the forming of Choral Groups. Miss Mitchell stressed that the Junior Institutes were most appreciative of the scholarships to Macdonald Institute, established by the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario.

Miss Olive Maltby, Woodbridge, presented the report of the Junior Farmers' Association stating, 500 Junior Farmers attended the fourth Annual Junior Farmer Conference held in Guelph last April. Sunday service there was conducted entirely by the Juniors, including the sermon and the choir. During the early summer, many local clubs have Field Days, then larger County Field Days are held with the winners competing in Regional Field Days at Guelph, Ridgeway and Kemptville. Public Speaking and Amateur Entertainment Contests are held in connection with the Federation of Agriculture Annual Meeting. A new feature of the final contests of this year will be 5 minute impromptu speeches in addition to the usual 10 minute ones. Four Junior Farmers had just returned from a trip to Illinois where, for two days, they were the guests of the Illinois Youth Conference. They agreed that the exchange of ideas and the visiting with other groups broadens the view point and promotes a better understanding between countries which is the first step toward world peace.

F.W.I.O. OFFICERS' CONFERENCE

Following the recommendation of our President, the F.W.I.O. Board authorized the holding of an F.W.I.O. Officers' Conference at Guelph the first week in May, 1949. Those eligible to attend this first conference are Board Members, convention area chairmen and secretaries, District presidents and secretaries and Branch presidents and secretaries. The expenses of the convention area and district officers to this conference will be pooled.

It is the sincere hope of the F.W.I.O. Board that Areas and Districts will aim for full representation and that

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