

P 2 – 1943 convention – Georgina Smith

Dr. Kenny, minister of Norfolk Church brought greetings and a cordial welcome to their beautiful edifice. He spoke on “Be ye not forgetful to entertain strangers for you may be entertaining angels unaware. A thought he left was that service is the finest asset in the world and there is no monopoly on it.

Miss Eadie of the Women’s Institute branch in Toronto was in charge of the Girl’s session and gave an interesting address on the tremendous importance of early home life on youth – a fact which is recognized more and more. She warned against fault finding but rather ask ones self the reason behind the action and what the opportunities are granted. She urged allowing youthful members of the home to show their initiative in the home and on the farm. Naturally they will make mistakes but these mistakes are valuable lessons. Today there is a great challenge to our youth who have been likened to a gavel who has grown up in Canada, whose hammer blows are felt around the world. In the younger age group we need to be aware of adjustments that have to be made. These boys and girls want freedom to make up their own minds, which is a very natural development and must not be retarded too much or pushed too far. They require companionship and friends within their own age group. Mothers and leaders should remember they can never take the place of these companions. There is a need for spiritual development, perhaps a musical outlet and one must make allowance for a reasonable balance of success and failure.

It takes opportunity with responsibility to develop character and education to use leisure time whether it is through clubs on various other projects. Are we giving our community leadership and our boys and girls adequate opportunity for health and education?

The session was then ably taken over by Charlotte McCullough of Halton who outlined briefly the work of the Junior Institutes, and the growing spirit of fellowship and co-operation among the workers in all the different projects undertaken, but asked for more co-operation and supporting of these courses by the elders saying one can always tell the girls within a group who receive encouragement at home. Many of these things could probably be taught just as well at home, and mothers should not belittle the efforts of their daughters, for there is something in human nature which makes on work better in competition with those their own age – responsibility again!

First Junior speaker to be introduced was Jean Elliott, a leader through nine different projects and what an unassuming, capable, bright young lad she was, bringing an outline of meal planning with appeal, flavour and nutrition, stressing the value of milk, tomatoes, citrus fruits, vegetables, Canada-approved bread and meat or fish each day so every member of the family will obtain the correct quota of essential vitamins.