

# South Renfrew W.I.'s Entertain I.C.S.W. at Arnprior

July 14 1954

An event of more than usual interest took place in Arnprior on Wednesday of last week, when members of South Renfrew Women's Institutes were hostesses at dinner to a group of international guests. The visitors were delegates to the International Conference of Social Workers, recently held in Toronto, and were en route to Ottawa following a bus tour through Algonquin Park and other points of interest in this part of the province.

## ENTERTAINED AT DINNER

Escorted by Mrs. Carl Robinson, of Toronto, vice-chairman of the tour, and Mrs. Haney of the Dominion Department of Welfare, 15 of these delegates were greeted by the W.I. district leaders in Arnprior park, and enjoyed a short stroll along the lake front and viewing the picturesque grounds. They were then entertained at dinner in the United Church parish hall, when the tastefully appointed tables, in the Women's Institute colors of royal blue and gold, and the appetizing meal, were under the capable management of the W.I. branches from Arnprior, Braeside, Pine Grove and Clay Bank.

Mrs. Forrest Merrifield, district president, extended a warm welcome to the guests, and Mayor Simpson greeted them on behalf of the town. In reply, greetings to the Women's Institutes and the Canadian people were voiced by leading delegates from various countries. Heard in these brief but delightful speeches were Mlle. Bustamante of Bolivia, Mlle. Geushof of the Netherlands, Miss Friese of U.S.A., Madame Kagan of Israel, Mlle. Dargeut of Belgium, and Madame Pelantova, of Czechoslovakia, who had been deputy-mayor of Prague in 1949. Two gentlemen members of the group, Monsieur Nihon of Belgium and Dr. H. Sark of the Netherlands, were also heard from, Dr. Sark giving an interesting and enlightening explanation of the work and aims of the international organization, of which he is vice-president. Attending the conference just closed, Dr. Sark said, were 2,000 delegates representing 50 countries of the world. It was simply, he explained, a welfare organization at international level, a uniting of national welfare so-

cieties for the better co-ordination of their work, and the bringing about of better conditions in all countries of the world. Acting as interpreter for those of the group who did not speak English was Mlle. Chiertiam Janstraf, of Belgium. R. S. Atkey, editor of the Arnprior Chronicle, spoke briefly, and Mrs. Carl Robinson expressed the thanks of the visitors to the Women's Institutes for their cordial welcome and the enjoyable meal.

## PRESENT SOUVENIR

Before continuing on their way to the capital city, the guests were each presented with a small souvenir from the Women's Institutes, and a gift of two beautiful jewel boxes, made from African woods and a product of an Arnprior industry, was given by Mayor Simpson. The latter gifts provided considerable interest and hilarity as the lady visitors held a "lucky draw" to determine who should receive the handsome boxes. The fortunate ones were the deputy mayor of Prague, Madame Pelantova, and Mlle. Janstraf of Belgium.