

splendid type of early settler. It is fitting that the resting-places of these people should be preserved and beautified. Their memories deserve perpetuation.

In some of the counties, following the legislation passed by the Ontario Government in 1932, Commissions have been set up whose business it is to see that the old graveyards and cemeteries are decently maintained. Where these Commissions have functioned, some excellent work has been done.

About one-half the counties have so far failed to appoint a local Commission, and in these the improvement of cemeteries has depended upon local initiative. In some cases the Women's Institutes have set a good example in inducing their men folk to club together and provide funds and labour for levelling, grass-cutting, fencing and other items of cemetery maintenance.

The great need in cemetery maintenance is the establishment of a fund, the income from which will suffice to provide for perpetual care of the property. Appeal might be made to the more well-to-do, whose relatives rest in these graveyards, for subscription to a perpetual care fund. Such funds should be placed for investment and safe-keeping in the hands of the Public Trustee, Osgoode Hall, Toronto.

#### Prevention of Diphtheria

Very frequently Women's Institutes make enquiries as to how to proceed to have diphtheria immunization carried out amongst the school and pre-school children in their district. They have read in the press or heard of the success of this procedure in other municipalities, both large and small, where diphtheria has been all but eliminated as a result of such campaigns, and are interested to know how best to procure these advantages for their own children.

In the first place, they must realize that these campaigns have been largely the result of local effort. Some groups, lead by the Medical Officer of Health, have worked up sufficient interest in the community in this connection so that funds have been voted by the council for this purpose. The work is carried on by the local Board of Health, and Medical Officer, usually with the assistance of the other medical men in the district.

To assist the municipalities in this important work, the Ontario Department of Health gives various services. The material, diphtheria toxoid, is supplied free of charge. To acquaint parents with the use of toxoid, a four page pamphlet has been prepared for free distribution called the "Prevention of Diphtheria." A motion picture film entitled "New Ways for Old" is available for use in a community where a campaign is planned. This film may be obtained in three widths, a 16 millimetre, a 28 millimetre and standard width, and tells the story of how diphtheria may be controlled in a graphic way.

Any Branch of the Institute which wishes these services, or further information on this matter, should write to the Division of Preventable Diseases, Department of Health, Parliament Buildings, Toronto.

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## THE FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF CANADA

By Mrs. A. E. Walker, Bartonville, Ontario.

It is now little more than fourteen years since the Women's Institutes throughout the length and breadth of Canada were united or federated into one great and forceful organization, known as "The Federated Women's Institutes of Canada", and during that period of time much has been accomplished along the lines of (rural) home and community betterment.

Because of this Federation, our Institutes are enabled to serve their country to better advantage, than they otherwise could have done, for it has been the means of bringing into closer contact the provinces, one with another, thus creating and developing among the people a kindlier spirit and more sympathetic understanding, and thereby knitting the provinces more closely together, so that instead of a Canada composed of nine separate provinces, we have the rural women of nine provinces united into one great and glorious band.

This kindly and sympathetic feeling for our sister provinces is being daily demonstrated. Constantly food, clothing and money are being offered (and accepted) to sisters in distress in other provinces. Word has come from Mrs. Cameron, Regina, Honorary President of our F.W.I.C., that seventy-five carloads of fruit and vegetables from Ontario alone—a goodly proportion of which was contributed by the Women's Institutes—arrived at Regina in good condition for distribution among the settlers of the drought-stricken areas of Saskatchewan. Other provinces have also made contributions, so, altogether it has been possible to give each family in the dried-out area around Regina a whole box of apples. While such material contributions are very acceptable, yet much more so is the knowledge that behind such generosity lies the friendly, sympathetic and understanding heart. It is such as that at the present time enables one to go on—that makes living much more worthwhile.

Very recently there has come to hand letters from England and New Zealand, asking for addresses from Institutes desirous of corresponding or linking up with Institutes in those countries. These letters stated that the members in England and New Zealand felt that it would be a decided advantage and benefit to them to be linked up with such experienced and progressive Institutes as are ours here in Canada. Any Institutes desiring such contacts please communicate with Mrs. Allan Lancefield, Corresponding Secretary F.W.I.C., Aldershot, Ontario; or, Mr. Geo. A. Putnam, Superintendent of Institutes, Department of Agriculture, Parliament Buildings, Toronto.

Another item of special interest to Women's Institute members: a letter has been received from a woman in the United States seeking detailed information as to the methods of organization, program planning, financing and general management of our Institutes in Canada. She said she was helping draw up plans to launch an organization for women in China, and after having studied women's organizations the world over, concluded from what she had read of our F.W.I.C., that our Institutes were best suited to her purpose—viz., the improvement of home and community life in China.

Are not these wonderful tributes to our F.W.I.C., and surely they should be an incentive to all loyal Women's Institute members to avail themselves of the many educational opportunities offered them by the Women's Institute so that they may develop to the utmost their individual talents that they may devote them to the best interest of her home, her community and the country.

### HIGH LIGHTS OF A FEW OF THE CONVENTIONS OF 1933

By Miss M. V. Powell, Institutes Branch.

The outstanding feature of practically every convention gathering was the evident spirit of enthusiasm, practical service and courage with which the members were facing and solving some of the difficult problems of the present; the good comradeship, sympathy and ready co-operation towards others, and the very evident desire on the part of the members for information and knowledge to better equip themselves for their responsibilities as homemakers and citizens.

While the northern areas naturally devote much time and thought to neighbourly deeds, it was noteworthy that self-education relative to home-making interests received considerable attention.

At the first Convention, held at Monteith, the tenor of the gathering was expressed in the official welcome. Officers were welcomed as leaders who through experience were equipped to advise and direct others in the work. The desire to reach every possible home with information and assistance available through Institute connection was voiced; the wish expressed for a better understanding of Institute work, to carry back to the respective branches, and a definite appreciation of the benefits was ably presented, accompanied by the admonition to all to be of real service to others through available avenues which might present themselves.

An attractive exhibit of craft work proved of interest. Possibly the most helpful feature of this convention was the intelligent discussions which followed the various reports and the desire for information on matters of importance in home, school and community interests. Also an expressed desire for educational programs and extension of the work.

The address of the Medical Officer of Health for this district was instructive, being accompanied by a chart showing the progress made over a stated period of years in wiping out some communicable diseases.

At St. Joseph Island an attractive and varied exhibit was of interest and brought out splendid thrift measures, one member exhibiting from overalls to bed spreads made from flour sacks, a very fine display, while wool rugs in beautiful colourings, the work of the exhibitor, showed the artistic talent being developed. This was still more evident in some beautiful paintings of local subjects, a very creditable display.

Home Economics was splendidly handled in this area, family meals, school lunches, marketing methods, picnic lunches, value of milk and care of dairy products, and other nutrition subjects were studied and discussed by the branches.

Discussions and exhibits were the special means employed in carrying home the valuable information on the various educational and recreational topics presented, while this area is doing outstanding work in the way of clinics.

Kingston Area is doing excellent work in securing Historical material and fostering agricultural interests.

Reports were well arranged, not too lengthy but emphasizing the practical working methods along various lines. The girls' session was of special interest and pleasure, showing both knowledge and application with real zest in the many branches of girls' work.

The address on "Amateur Acting" was of definite interest and value, giving many helpful suggestions for successful staging of educational plays.

Here also was a display and competition of beautiful quilts, which was an added attraction to the gathering.

Thunder Bay Area was a most enthusiastic gathering, representatives being present from all sections of this vast area. Keen interest in all branches of Institute work was maintained throughout the entire Convention period, and inspirational, informative, addresses and discussions on legislation, agriculture and home economics lines gave the delegates material of real worth to carry back to their branches.

Excellent reports on outstanding committee topics evidenced the fact that good work is being done generally and a thorough understanding of Institute possibilities and objectives was evident. Each delegate received inspiration to return to her branch equipped with fresh enthusiasm and practical information as to how to make the work more effective in her community.

### THIS EDITION

Is published chiefly for the purpose of bringing to the attention of the officers and members of local branches ways and means whereby they can make their own efforts of greatest value so far as the educational, social and service features of their work are concerned. Valuable information of a similar character will be found in the earlier numbers of "Home and Country" and when making plans for the twelve months beginning with May, the officers and members of the Program Committee should review carefully back numbers of "H. & C." The sample program, as given in the May number, and the outline of program for Standing Committees in the same issue, together with the suggestions on Program Planning in the July number, the summary of activities of the various Standing Committees as given in the September issue, together with message from the Superintendent, announcement regarding Loan Paper Collection, and other items of interest in the November-December issue, should be kept in mind when making plans for the year. Our whole concern at this time should be the welfare of the branch organization. For if this is assured, then the district organization, the Conventions and the Provincial Board, will function effectively. The whole strength of the Women's Institute rests in the single units, with proper superstructure and direction and co-operation with the various services which are available.

### FUTURE ISSUES OF "HOME AND COUNTRY"

In order that "Home and Country" may be published and placed in the hands of the Institute members at a minimum of labour and without expense to the individual member, it has been decided that the Department will devote a considerable proportion of the amount saved by decreased grants in publishing "Home and Country", and the Provincial Federation will also assist as their finances will permit. After a discussion of plans with the Provincial President, it has been decided to issue at least four copies of "Home and Country" during the year beginning with May next to be supplied free for all members. The copies for each branch will be sent to the secretary, who will arrange for the distribution of the same in accordance with the wishes of the branch. In addition to these four numbers to be supplied for all members, additional issues will be published from time to time throughout the year and a copy will be sent to each president and three copies to the secretary of each branch, two of them to be handed to fellow-officers, and where a branch has more than forty members one extra copy for each ten members will be provided. These special