

BALANCE YOUR PROGRAM

While we are presenting a sample program (see other side) for the monthly meetings of an Institute, the activities of a real Institute embraces much beyond the preparation and printing of an educational program. One should not only prepare what will prove to be an attractive and helpful program, but should place a copy in the hands of not only members, but other women and girls in the community who could possibly be induced to join and take advantage of the practical and social features and make their contribution as opportunity affords, especially in community undertakings. Make your meetings so attractive that when reports appear in the local press every woman will have a desire to take advantage of the monthly gatherings and special occasions.

Let it be known that while your Institute is a real forceful educational factor for grown-ups, its program does not stop there, for the social features can be made most attractive, not only to the members, but the whole community, including the women and girls, men and boys. The branch reports presented below may be an inspiration to some branches to enlarge their program of activities. Neither the educational features, the social activities, or the service program will *alone* attract and hold members, but the judicious balancing of these, combined with a kindly, neighbourly spirit dominating the whole undertaking, make for permanency.

Report of Elgin Women's Institute, 1931-32

"Our Aim and Object"

"To do all the good we can, in every way we can, to all the people we can; and, above all, to study household good, and any line of work which makes for the betterment of our homes, the advancement of our people and the good of our country."

Looking back over a year of Women's Institute activities one is amazed at their number and variety, even when one has been a participant in all of them. It is difficult to select the most outstanding of those activities, although in the case of the Elgin branch probably first mention should be made of the organization of a musical competition, followed later by the introduction of music into the two-room village school, as well as into two one-room rural schools, half the cost of tuition being paid by the local Women's Institute.

Another event of far-reaching importance was the re-organization of the Trustee Board of the local cemetery, with 600 lots, at the instigation of the Women's Institute. A public meeting was called, new members (including two W.I. members), were added to the Board, and plans were made for levelling, seeding, etc. Work was commenced in the fall, the W.I. paying half the cost of the work on the first group of lots to be done. A canvass for funds was then made, and still continues by post.

We conducted a booth at the local school fair, a percentage of the profits going to the Agricultural Representative to be applied toward prizes.

On the occasion of the annual Sports Day for the six Continuation Schools in West Leeds, which was held in Elgin in October, we served dinner to about 200, sharing the gate receipts equally with the School Committee. We also conducted a refreshment booth on the sports field, 25% of the profits from same going to the School Committee.

Later in October a cafeteria and refreshment booth was conducted at the Leeds County Plowing Match.

A musical entertainment, given by Toronto talent, followed by a dance, completes the list of money-making activities.

Following a fire in July, which destroyed the entire flock of poultry belonging to an ex-member, the members held a "hen" shower at her home, taking refreshments with them, and spending a pleasant evening socially. About 20 hens formed the nucleus for a new flock.

Hospital expenses were paid for a young boy who underwent an operation for hernia.

Baskets of fruit, soups, nuts and sweets were sent to the sick and shut-in of the community at Christmas time, and twenty-eight needy children were remembered with toys, fruit, candy, etc., as well as with some articles of warm clothing.

A bale valued at \$46.50 was sent to Thornloe, South Temis-

kaming District. This contained two new quilts, clothing, footwear, etc.

The Institute maintains a library which has recently been augmented by the transfer of books from a library at one of the local churches.

A donation of \$5.00 was sent to the Navy League. The Institute also maintains membership in the League of Nations Society, and in the Canadian Tuberculosis Association.

Coaching Classes for the Girls' Judging Competitions were held here during the summer, and a donation of \$3.00 was made towards prizes for the County Competition. One of our Elgin girls, and a student at the Continuation School—won a trip to Ottawa Exhibition and later to the Royal Winter Fair.

A piano was bought by the Institute for use in the Council Chamber of the Community Hall, where most of our meetings are held. We also purchased a quantity of forks, spoons and cups to augment the supply already in use in the hall.

Some features of our year's program seem worthy of mention. June, July and August meetings were held out of doors, that in July taking the form of a Basket Picnic at Sand Lake, about one and one-half miles from the village. There was a program of sports, both land and aquatic, the Institute donating prizes for each event.

At the special meeting in June, which was addressed by Mrs. Joan Hamilton Shearer of Poole, Ontario, we entertained members of Chaffey's Lock, Morton and Portland branches.

At the August meeting an annual summer visitor from Springfield, Mass., gave a most interesting talk on the Passion Play which she had witnessed in Oberammgau in 1930.

The Grandmothers' meeting in September was especially interesting with its demonstrations in spinning and its exhibit of old-time handwork, the history of each piece being given as it was placed in display. A great grandmother, over eighty years of age, prepared and read an exceptionally good paper on "If I were Twenty-one Again", in which were combined reminiscences of the mode of living in her youth and wise and kindly admonitions to the youth of to-day. There was also at this meeting a competition in living-room bouquets, for which three prizes were awarded, the flowers afterward being sent to Grandmothers who were absent through illness.

The School children in the village, as well as from five neighbouring rural schools, were invited to the December meeting where they furnished an excellent and entertaining program. There were two competitions, one for girls—"Best doll's dress or suit of underwear"; and one for boys—"Handmade toys." There were two age classes in each competition and three prizes awarded in each class. At the close of the program each

child was given a treat of candy, popcorn and peanuts.

Histories of the local schools were features at the February meeting and proved very interesting.

Home Economics topics dealt with during the year were "Sandwich Fillings", "Time Saving Ideas", "Control of Insect Pests", as well as two competitions in which prizes were awarded—"Supper Dishes" in November, and "Salads" (both jellied and combined with dressing, two classes), in February. Educational topics have included: "The Office of Governor-General and its Present Occupant", "A Trip Through Leeds County", "Canadian Books and their Authors", "Lives of Three Famous Composers—with selections from their works played on violin, with piano accompaniment", "Christmas of the Past", "Qualifications and Duties of a Senator", "Notes on the History of Ontario", "Ireland—the Land of Song."

A talk on "The Preservation of Health", by one of the local doctors, and one on "Home Beautification", dealing particularly with outdoor planting, were features of our April meeting.

Refreshments are served by four directors at each meeting.

On March 18th our oldest member was "surprised" by her fellow-members on the occasion of her 83rd birthday, when they spent the evening at her home, presenting her with a handsome black suede handbag, accompanied by a congratulatory address.

Activities of Bar River Women's Institute,

During Their First Year. 1931-32.

The Bar River Branch of the North Shore Algoma Women's Institute was organized on February 19th, 1931. It was the prevailing attitude of a number of our women to try and bring the different communities together under one common cause regardless of sect or creed and, with this in view, they had exercised their influence toward co-operation, and we concluded that for community educational activities, we could make under no better heading than the "Women's Institute."

We had a membership of ten at our organization meeting, which has now grown to 36. We plan to open our meetings on time, so generally everyone is there to answer the roll call which follows the opening exercises of community singing, "Opening Ode", and all repeating the "Lord's Prayer". The roll call is responded to with a joke, recipe, favourite author, current event or contribution entirely in keeping with the day's program.

In order to make our Institute work more effective, we appointed committees with convenors for same, under the classified headings—Health, Home Economics, Community Activities,

Relief and Historical Research. We have adopted the printed program and find it a great help.

LITERATURE

We have taken advantage of the free literature sent from the Department, including the following—"Preservation of Food", "Home Canning", "Vegetables", also the Health Almanac, Baby Book, Blue Books and several others of interest. We have also had the use of a Travelling Library which was enjoyed and proved very profitable, many taking advantage of the reading during the winter evenings. We appreciate very much the advantages we have received from the Department.

PAPERS AND ADDRESSES

We have papers and addresses at our meetings, including the following: "Women's Work", by Dr. Margaret Patterson of Toronto, taken from the 1929 Report; address of Mrs. Laura Rose Stephen, "Our Dominant Mood"; "How to Make our Meetings Simple, Interesting and Entertaining", read by a member; "Sunny Side of Life", by a member, and one by our District President, Miss Gibson, on "Different Phases of Institute Work." Our Health Committee report making several visits to homes in the community, leaving delicacies where needed, and kind words. Relief was given to fire sufferers by donating clothing, bed linen and quilts, also some second-hand household effects and provisions and clothing to some needy families.

At our May meeting Mrs. Grattan of Port Arthur, the summer speaker, delivered the first official address at our branch, choosing very suitable subjects.

DEMONSTRATION-LECTURE COURSES

We had a two weeks sewing course in midsummer with an enrollment of 26, and an average attendance of 21. Instruction was given chiefly along the following lines: "Hemming, Binding, Fancy Stitching, Buttonholes, Placket Making and Pockets", and finally each member completed a dress. After faithful work during the trying two weeks of oppressive heat all motored to the Lake Shore where a picnic was much enjoyed by all. At a meeting following, members of the class demonstrated some of their work for the benefit of those who were unable to attend the class.

We also had a two weeks' course in Home Nursing and First Aid, with an attendance of 22. The instructor proved very thorough in her work and the members took keen interest in all the lectures given. Those taking the course demonstrated at a branch meeting for the purpose of impressing on the mind the work gone over.

HEALTH CLINICS

A Baby Clinic was held in February at a member's home. There was an enrollment of 35, but owing to unfavourable weather only 16 were able to at-

tend. The examining doctor was Dr. McKenzie Smith of Toronto, assisted by our District nurse, Miss I. Grenville.

We intend to hold a clinic in the near future for pre-school age children which, no doubt, will be under the supervision of our local doctor.

FAIR WORK

We held a Bazaar and Bake Sale at our Agricultural Fall Fair with good results. We donated a small sum of money toward children's prizes for sports at this Fair.

Four of our members attended the annual fall convention held at Bruce Mines and the Branch delegate gave a full report of same at the following meeting. We had a Grandmothers' Day and the members brought relics and photos of their young days. The grandmothers entertained with a song and at the close of the meeting were each presented with flowers.

Four girls from our branch area took advantage of the Girls' Coaching class. Our officers cooperated with the Agricultural Representative regarding same and assisted the girls by way of conveyance to class appointments.

We have recently adopted the question box in our meetings and think it will create great interest and lead to favourable discussions.

SOCIAL

We have a Lunch Committee of four members who act as hostesses for each meeting, thus relieving the member at whose home we meet of any unnecessary worry or work. The lunch consists of sandwiches, cake and tea or coffee.

The only social activity we have had during the year for the purpose of raising funds was held on February 19th, celebrating the first birthday of our branch. After supper the Historical Research Committee staged a splendid program which took the form of a pageant. A historical sketch of the pioneers of our township was presented, also school teachers and officers of the day employed in professional service. This proved very interesting and awakened a feeling of gratitude towards the pioneers. The old-fashioned dress costumes added greatly to the enjoyment of all. Short dialogues, music, recitations, etc., formed part of the program, ending with the selling of a quilt and a three-storey birthday cake, the latter being sold in pieces as desired. The proceeds of the evening amounted to almost \$60. We expect to make the birthday of our branch an annual event, at the same time having in mind the birthday of the first Women's Institute organized in Saltfleet Township on February 19th, 1897. We hope to keep the aims and objects of the Women's Institute prominent through all our social and educational activities, that we may prove worthy of our motto "For Home and Country."