

HOME and COUNTRY

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Read this page first in order that you may derive the most benefit from the following pages.

The first copy of "Home and Country" was published in May, 1933. It was an experiment in placing timely information and material of permanent value in the hands of the Institute officers and members through the printed page rather than typewritten circulars and annual reports. This is the Seventh Number and the first to be devoted largely to information of practical value to the homemaker. All members for 1934-35 will receive at least three additional copies of "Home and Country" containing information of practical value bearing upon similar lines to that presented in this issue.

Since this is the first number to reach many of the members, we are taking the liberty of quoting briefly from previous issues and drawing the attention of the members to information of particular value which has appeared in back numbers.

May we remind the officers that back numbers of "Home and Country" contain information as indicated below of special interest to them.

MAY, 1933—Program for the Standing Committees; Literature Available; Financing the Institutes.

JULY—Financing the District Organization; Program Planning; Garment Making Clubs.

SEPTEMBER—Message from the Provincial President; Food Pointers for the Autumn; Essentials for Success in the Institutes; Reports of Standing Committees; Scoring a Program.

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER—Loan Paper Collection; Demonstration Lecture Courses; Membership Fees and Collections; Motion Picture Films and Lantern Slides; Suggested Menus.

FEBRUARY—Reporting Meetings; Signatures and Addresses; Library Service; Program Planning; Demonstration Lecture Courses; A Supplement Containing Sample Program.

MARCH & APRIL—District Annuals; Announcement of Conventions; Solving the Officer Problem; Crippled Children.

Last year's officers have copies which you may consult.

Is the Institute Worth-while?

The Editorial Committee think it well to place before all identified with the Institutes, especially those who have not read previous numbers of "Home and Country", some of the essentials in making the Institute of greatest value to the individual, the family, and the community. Before doing this allow us to present the statements of those who have made a world-wide survey of Country-

women's Organizations. We are quoting from "The Countrywoman", published by the Associated Countrywomen of the World, with offices in London, England.

"Thirty-seven years ago a group of Canadian countrywomen formed themselves into a Women's Institute, and so laid the foundation of a better rural social order.

This organization built up by countrywomen is the assembly of a simple and practical way of working together, with all useless impediments, all unneeded red tape and over-centralization cut out—democratic and natural. In co-operation, countrywomen have never attempted to separate the material from the spiritual; with them mutual help and fellowship are no less important than learning and working together. They have made their movement a great sisterhood.

All peoples and all countries have been on trial. The test has been severe enough to destroy governments; it has not shaken the sure foundation of the countrywomen's organizations. Their members have been able to confront without despair the dark forces which now seem to menace salvation.

Bad times have not been able to defeat the courage of the countrywomen, and to-day they are sustained by factors which do not operate in industrial areas. Neighbourliness, the flower of country life, has kept up their morale. Meeting together habitually, on a friendly basis in their societies, with the object of giving service to their homes and communities, has kept alive for them faculties of hand and mind and qualities of heart and soul which enable them to surmount difficulties and keep alive hope and cheer in the countryside.

In these days of swift change the countrywoman's life is more stimulating and exciting, if more hazardous than ever before."

Space will not permit of further quotation, but the above should convince all that the work in which we are co-operating is of very great value and holds great possibilities for the future.

Allow us to present some of the essentials towards success so far as the Institutes in our own province are concerned, and many of these underlying principles can, in our opinion, be applied to countrywomen's organizations in general.

The prime object of the Institutes is educational, an education acquired as a part of the daily routine of women of responsibility. Association with other homemakers at the regular meetings to consider questions of immediate and practical value, cannot but add materially to the efficiency of those concerned in the housing, clothing, feeding and health of

the family. If a group confines itself wholly to the educational along practical lines without opportunity for social intercourse and entertainment and the privilege of rendering service, the organization will not hold the members or attract new ones; so due consideration must be given to the social life of the community, and no group of homemakers will be entirely satisfied unless they are making their contribution to community needs and responding to calls on behalf of the individual or the family in need.

Those who are seeking a means of becoming more efficient in the daily responsibilities of country women, value the opportunity for wholesome social intercourse and cultural advantages and appreciate the fact that true happiness consists in service to others, cannot do better than to throw their lot in with the women and girls of the community in building up an organization which will have a beneficial influence, either directly, or indirectly, on all the homes of the community and thus upon the community as a whole.

We wish to remind the officers and members that no member of the Institute is to be taxed more than Twenty-five Cents (.25c) per year; this payment entitles the individual to membership in the Institute with the privilege of attending all educational meetings without further charge, includes their portion of contribution to the Provincial Federation, and entitles them to copies of at least four numbers of "Home and Country". If further funds are required to carry on the work of the branch or district, these should be secured without taxing the individual member or asking for collections at the meetings. Many individuals who have been well able to contribute quite liberally to the Institute undertakings in the past have had their financial resources considerably reduced, and rather than attend the meetings and not contribute to the collections or special appeals, discontinue their membership. These women were never more in need of the Institute than now; so we appeal to the leaders to put forth a special effort to plan and carry out their program of educational, social, and service features in a manner which hold the old members and attract new ones. Do not unduly stress finances.

MESSAGE FROM THE PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT

Mrs. R. B. Colloton,
Lorne Park

Judging from some questions brought out in discussion at recent district annuals there are still members to whom the dif-

ATTENTION OF BRANCH SECRETARIES

A sufficient number of this issue is being mailed to the secretary of each branch Institute to enable her to place one copy in each home where there was one or more member for the past year, or a new member for the current year. A few extra copies for prospective members are being sent to those branches which asked for the same. It has been difficult to determine the number to send to each branch. If you require a few more copies to meet the needs please apply for the same at once. If you have more than you require please return them to the Institute Branch.

ference between the status of the Department and that of the Provincial Federation is not clear. Therefore in this number of "Home and Country", a copy of which is to be placed in the hands of every member, we shall again give a brief outline as to the functions of both.

"The Institutes Branch of the Department of Agriculture" is—as its title states—a branch of work carried on under the administration of the Government of Ontario by salaried government servants. For the past thirty years the Superintendent in charge has been Mr. Geo. A. Putnam, to whose wise and judicial guidance the success of the movement, especially systematic instruction in Nutrition, Health, Housing and Clothing; the holding of conventions, the publication of literature; the issuing of "Home and Country", has been largely due.

The Federated Board is the provincial body elected directly from the members by the members themselves. Conditions vary so greatly in different parts of the province that it is readily understandable that the problems, needs and interests of one section (say Temiskaming) can be greatly different from those of another (say S. Wentworth). At the Provincial Board these twenty representatives meet on exactly the same basis, bringing to that body the various views, needs, problems, opinions, requests, suggestions, etc., of their respective subdivisions, so that the Board is enabled to act as a clearing house through which policies, rulings, recommendations, etc., may be formulated which will be as far as possible applicable by and acceptable to all sections of the province.

The Federation also forms an important link in the chain binding the foundation unit, the Branch, to the ultimate and vision-inspiring international organization through the various stages of District, Sub-division, Province and Dominion. This International Association now includes twenty-eight countries with steadily increasing possibilities of further fields of service.

The forming of the Federa-

tion at the suggestion of Mr. Putnam was the outcome of the steady and ever-increasing measure of growth of the angles and relationships developed as the organization steadily increased its membership. The need was increasingly felt (1) for contacts and intercommunication between the various sections of the province; (2) for authorized representation to many other organizations, especially those with which our lines of work are linked,—and perhaps many members would be surprised to learn how extensive these are and how much sacrifice of time and effort is frequently made by those acting in this capacity, and also how greatly sought and valued is this W.I. representation;—(3) for Provincial representation in our Dominion and International Federations; (4) for the direct assuming by the members themselves of a share in the responsibility on matters of policy, etc.; (5) for a direct channel through which to consider, debate, and finally send on to the proper source resolutions sent up by the branches through the districts. As many of these are requests to various other departments of the government it will readily be seen that it would hardly be consistent to have them presented through another branch of the service.

Financially the Board assists materially to finance conventions as well as to pay travelling expenses for representatives to conventions and district annuals. It contributes its quota to Dominion and International Federations, has supplied song sheets, paid transportation on relief sales and many other similar matters too numerous to mention. This past year it has helped very substantially to finance "Home and Country" and hopes to be able to continue to do so. The only salaried member of the Board is the Secretary-Treasurer.

The Department and the Board work in closest co-operation and both have a common objective:—to be of as much service as possible and do all in their power toward the furtherance of the work and still greater development of our wonderful organization of which we feel we have good reason to be so proud.