

EDUCATION

Provincial Convener, Mrs. A. D. McDougall, Maxville.

Throughout the Province there is a notable increase in the number of branches devoting time and study to the departmental bulletins, and similar helps, including circulating libraries. Possibly the most noticeable province-wide movement is that of sponsoring musical instruction in schools and musical festivals, as reported from practically every area in the Province. Most satisfactory results have followed this branch of the work. Briefly, the general trend is for larger educational vision as evidenced in the subjects studied, which in the Kingston area includes architecture, biography sketches, Local M.P.'s on Government, postal regulations, psychology, civic education, electric refrigeration, basic principles of telephone and radio, mounted police, league of nations, status of Canada, banking, art, literature, pictures. Talks by local doctors, clergy, and school teachers; travel talks and many other lines of educational work, civic and social, have been featured. Debates have been an increasingly popular method of creating and maintaining interest in topics of the day, while current events are proving a definite asset to the branches in bringing to the busy homemaker the local, county, provincial, Dominion and world happenings. Roll calls have taken on a decided educational aspect dealing with geography, history, civics, poetry, composers, birds, flowers, courtesies, recipes, and similar subjects, lending variety to the meetings.

Demonstrations are becoming more and more popular as an effective means of carrying information in an interesting way, while exhibits are being utilized as an educational method of presenting otherwise dry or difficult subjects in a pleasing and acceptable manner. Pictures, handicrafts, posters, historical research and other subjects being brought delightfully to the members through this means.

Motion Pictures also have found a place in the educational programmes of the branches.

Poster and essay contests continue to be an annual feature sponsored by one district, with most gratifying results, and a very splendid co-operative spirit exists between the teachers and parents and the Institute branch.

Some sections have availed themselves of the services of the Agricultural Representative, to mutual advantage, while not a few have realized the benefits of the demonstration lecture courses available through the Department of Agriculture. One branch in eastern Ontario has inaugurated a Sunday Song Service and Story Hour, which has provided much enjoyment.

An eastern branch featured education as follows: 1. A lively debate was enjoyed when the "Grandmothers," upheld the affirmative in the question: "Resolved that our grandmothers enjoyed life more than we do now."

2. Civic education was increased by the reading of current events at each meeting, by the answering of a roll call, "Give the Name and Duty of a Cabinet Minister", and by hearing a brief paper on "The Life of the present Governor-General, and his Duties."

3. Social education was furthered by impressive papers on "Proper Use of Leisure," and "Effect of Environment". Suitable stories were told in the Sunday Song Service and Story Hour, to put before the children

living examples to follow and splendid moral lessons to remember.

4. Efforts along musical lines were attempted by encouraging more home and community singing. The singing of hymns on Sunday taught the children many sacred songs.

5. Practical projects were carried out by organizing and conducting a "Sunday Song Service and Story Hour", which was largely attended and greatly enjoyed.

Another project was the "Display of Quilt Patterns", also Samples of Christmas Gifts. Another branch—Education—1. Roll calls—A duty of a hostess; a noted Canadian and why?; current events; a favourite picture in my possession, with exhibit; your reasons why Christmas giving should or should not be eliminated.

2. Discussion: "Need we have another war?" led by two of the members.

3. Paper: "The Book of the Month"—synopsis of the book "The Lantern in Her Hand" by one of the members.

4. Addresses:

(a) Little courtesies worth knowing and observing.

(b) Why I am glad I live in 1933.

(c) A notable Canadian author—Sir Stephen Leacock—his own autobiography as given in Sunshine Sketches in a little town and the excursion on the Mariposa Belle.

(d) Child training.

(e) Birds and their calls.

(f) Conditions prevailing between China and Japan and suitable mention of Remembrance Day, November 11.

(g) Sir Walter Scott and the synopsis of one of his works, "Rob Roy" as a suitable book to show the great ability of this writer.

(h) The Problems of the East and its bearing upon the rest of the world.

(i) "The Christmas Spirit"—selection from Dickens' Christmas Carol describing Christmas Day at Bob Cratchitt's.

5. Music—vocal and instrumental given at all the meetings, both by members and non-members.

Commerce, travel, history, music, literature, peoples and customs, writers, composers have each and all received attention in the various areas.

One branch had a paper on "How the members of the school board are chosen and their duties," and also furnished a visiting tour of places of interest in Ottawa to entrance pupils in three schools.

Oratory, plays and debates have been features of many programmes, while studies of the life, customs and habits of different classes of people lent a newer form of interest to both education and the people studied.

A branch reports a successful "drawing contest" but did not give the details of this feature, which would have added greatly to the value of reporting this item.

Branches in both eastern and western areas as well as from central sections continue to have representation at the O. E. A. Convention from which acceptable reports are presented to those interested.

We quote from a report of one of the central area districts, "Knowledge of current events and foreign affairs has been increased by programmes of educational value at their monthly meetings.

Scientific Temperance has received attention through the

distribution of literature, talks and discussions."

EDUCATION—SUGGESTED DIVISIONAL HEADINGS

Education—suggested divisional headings under which the subject may be made of interest and value.

Literature—

(a) Books, magazines, newspapers, especially utilization of "Home and Country."

(b) Writers.

(c) Libraries.

Adult Education—

(a) Programmes.

(b) Preparation of papers, addresses and reports.

(c) Debates—public speaking.

(d) Exchange of experience.

Music and Plays—

(a) Festivals.

(b) Community concerts.

(c) Instruction in schools.

(d) Dramatic competitions.

(e) Plays—locally.

Schools—

(a) Co-operation with teachers.

(b) Interest in meetings of section.

(c) Assistance with equipment, or other needs.

(d) Social contacts.

Art—

(a) Artists.

(b) Colours.

(c) Pictures.

AGRICULTURE

Provincial Convener, Mrs. Jas. Deviney, Vernonville

The Institutes are carrying on effectively along Agricultural lines. The members are not down-hearted, and a very fine spirit of courage and optimism prevails among our people, even though the returns from produce are much too small for the labour expended. In due time the pendulum will swing back into prosperous times. (Read carefully the report on Agriculture as given in the September, 1933 "Home and Country").

Every Institute should boost Agriculture, co-operate with the Agricultural Representative in his work, encourage the girls in their canning clubs, the boys and girls in their garden plots, and stimulate interest in the coaching classes and School Fair.

Emphasis has been placed on the need for producing the highest quality produce, whether it be vegetables, a dairy cow or a hen, and we find that in many localities improvements have been made in the methods of production and in farm stock. Economy has been exercised in growing much of seed required, selling the surplus products, also in grinding own flour for bread and in spinning and knitting.

Have an Agricultural Day on the Institute programme some time during the year. An interesting and instructive programme can be arranged—a roll call, an address or several short talks, and a demonstration, all dealing with some phase of agriculture. One Institute reports a five minute talk at each meeting on one particular vegetable, as method of stressing the food value of garden products. Another reports the growing of salad vegetables, followed by a salad contest.

In one convention area, an Institute is reported as having given prizes to scholars who exhibited posters representing "Our Home Industry" at school fairs. Many Institutes have given splendid assistance to the school fairs.

A debate at one meeting was "Resolved that conditions in farming communities were no more conducive to happiness

fifty years ago than they are now".

Let us bear in mind the importance of "Dressing up our Canadian Homes". Many Institutes report thus—"One has only to take a drive through rural Ontario to note the improvements in surroundings of country homes just the past two years". It is gratifying to note what the Institutes of Ontario are doing along the lines of beautification. Exchange of bulbs, shrubs, plants, slips and seeds still continues, and Institutes are providing seeds, bulbs and shrubs to make the school grounds attractive. Cemeteries are being cleared up, local hospital grounds cared for and waste places in villages made to produce bright and colourful flowers instead of weeds. Also, nearly every Institute member is giving time and thought to beautifying the home surroundings. It can well be said that the Women's Institutes have done more than any other organization toward the beautification of our homes and countryside, but our job is far from being complete. We still urge—"Make Canada more beautiful". A little effort pays big dividends in beauty, contentment and good health. The man or woman who loves a garden and spends his or her spare time working in it are home-loving individuals. It is said that England has the cleanest crime record in the world: it is a country of beautiful gardens. The poorest workman has his little plot, a mass of blossoming flowers. Gardens have a marked effect on civic and national life. The patriotism, well-being and contentment of any people, according to a writer of note, can be judged by the number of its gardens. Children who are brought up in homes where flowers are grown, where they are taught to help care and love them, do not usually go far astray. The influence of flowers in their lives is far-reaching.

Some of the interesting farm topics which have been presented are: "What happens between the farmer's field and the consumer's table", "Weed control and improvement of roadsides", "Sugar beet farming as an industry", "Birds in relation to Agriculture", "Wheat growing and bread making", "Planning of the perennial border—planting and care", "The need of a garden and how to make same", "Gardening—a hobby", "The vegetable garden", "Study of control of insects affecting vegetables", "Flower gardens in England", "Planting and storing bulbs", "Fire prevention".

Among the monthly roll calls have been found the following: "A tree—habits of growth, time of leafing and uses for its wood", "An apple recipe", "Our remedy for the present day agricultural depression", "Name a product from your farm and boost it", "A vegetable and its uses".

Demonstrations find a very frequent place on the programmes and some given are: "Correct planting of bulbs, seeds and plants", "Egg grading", "Canning of fruits, vegetables and meats", "How to prepare wool for home use", "Dish gardening", "Table bouquets", "Uses for skim milk", "Cuts of meat", "Grafting", "Preparing dahlia bulbs for planting", "Braiding of corn husk mats".

One Institute suggests the advisability of forming a beef ring. If further information is required, please write the Institute branch.

Reports indicate that the study of our birds has been touched only here and there, and wild flowers very little.

Could we not make a study of them this year? Study ways and means of attracting the feathered songsters to our surroundings. A programme "An afternoon with our Birds" might cover—Ways to coax them to frequent our home surroundings, Protection of our birds, Our friends and foes among the birds, Types of bird houses and Winter food for birds. For the roll call, each one present might name a species of birds with description.

Part of an afternoon's programme might be given to a study of wild flowers and ways of conserving them, with, perhaps, an exhibit of favourite wild flowers.

SUGGESTED DIVISIONAL HEADINGS

1. Home Beautification—

1. Removal of debris and unsightly litter.

2. Repairing fences, buildings, etc.

3. Cutting weeds.

4. Planting trees, flowers, shrubs, etc.

5. Lawns.

6. Paint.

2. Raising standard of products

1. Choice of seeds.

2. Selection of soil or garden plot.

3. Tested stock.

4. Care in housing, etc.

3. Utilization of Home Products.

1. Plentiful use in home.

2. Sale of fresh products.

3. Canning surplus for home use and sale.

4. Marketing of Products—

1. Growing the best.

2. Attractive.

5. Exchanges—

1. Shrubs, plants, cuttings, bulbs, seeds.

LEGISLATION

Provincial Convener, Miss Jean Ross, Lucan, Ontario.

Reports received from the Convention Areas on Legislation show an interest in this part of our work that is indeed gratifying. There are numerous requests from chairmen in branch, district and convention area for assistance, for as one so appealingly put it, "help to make even a beginning," reveals that many as yet left this field untouched, that many, beginning, need direction.

So it is the purpose of this report to outline as simply as possible the work that is being done, with the hope that branches not yet interested, that those, who have made a beginning, may be further helped.

The work of Legislation falls naturally into two divisions, the educational and the practical. The educational includes all that would increase our knowledge of Legislation, the practical, those efforts made to improve Legislation or help in the administration thereof.

The educational efforts, as reported, include:

1. All papers on Legislation. These are frequently prepared by Institute members and usually deal with laws of particular interest to women and children. Often a lawyer is the speaker. Sometimes the laws discussed are of general interest. A member of parliament, a warden, a reeve may speak on law-making; a banker on laws governing banking. Topics for the past year included Legislation of Special Interest to Women, Old Age Pensions, Mothers' Allowance, Banking, Wills and Inheritance.

2. Study of Law. Many branches read extracts from the "Legal Status of Women in Canada" which book may be obtained free from the Depart-