

NEIGHBOURLINESS AND GOOD CHEER

Provincial Convener, Mrs. W. A. Woltz, Brantford

These have been the fruits of the flower of "Relief" work among the branches.

General activity has been in giving assistance in cases of sickness and bereavement; fire sufferers and maternity cases, co-operation with local relief board and council, not only in the way of financial aid, but in investigations and clothing supplies.

Doctor's fees have been met and hospital bills paid. More detailed work as carried on in the various areas is of interest and gives us the methods employed in different sections.

Northern areas knitted socks and mittens for children; supplied clothing and books for a child starting to school, and buying garden seeds for spring planting. Financing expenses of a blind man while selling his wares (basketry) at the Fall Fairs.

Contributions from individual members as the needs arose, and co-operation with local relief board, Institute members acting on relief boards. Another method of securing needed supplies was through the different churches making announcement and this was followed by house to house canvas resulting in a generous response in clothing, bedding and other essentials. Funds were contributed for the purchase of groceries, and to Institutional support. Fire sufferers were assisted with clothing, food, bedding, and furniture. Through the organization of a sewing circle meeting one afternoon each week clothing was remodelled, mended and made over to meet the needs.

In addition to liberal money contributions to other organizations and institutions, fuel, clothing, bedding, furniture, foods, nursing care, flour, meat, etc., layettes, medical supplies, and glasses, were supplied in generous measure in the various communities according to the requirements.

One branch, possibly others too, spend one afternoon each week working in a township where an unusually large number were in need of assistance, meeting and relieving much distress.

One branch supplies layettes, which are left with the local doctor. The relief work in one section is carried on by the appointment of a convener with power to select her co-workers, and to render necessary aid when and where required, the funds for the work being secured by private contributions from the individual members. One branch received over \$68.00 in this manner.

"At our December meeting in answer to the roll call each member responded by giving a pound of foodstuffs or groceries, as butter, fruit, tea, or other article."

"The members in our branch took turns in nursing a mother and new born babe, helping with the housework and looking after the other children in the home."

The school children have a fruit or vegetable shower which they bring to the teacher. The teacher and children in one school sent out 75 baskets of fruits and vegetables.

Tag days and poppy days added to the finances in many instances, many bales were furnished for northern relief. One branch carried on practical work by holding demonstrations and instruction classes for mothers, through which they were taught to make nourishing

soups, remodel clothing, and similar work, while those who were interested in vegetable growing were supplied with seeds.

Hot soups provided by schools for the lunch hour are supplemented by 2 or 3 W.I. members each week, providing plain tea cakes, or sponge cake, and sandwiches for children unable to provide their own lunch, co-operation being given by local bakers in cut-rates and donations of these articles of food.

Old Peoples' Home visited, programme given and a Christmas package to each inmate. Two branches co-operated with the community in sending food and clothing to needy ones in Western Provinces. Sewing for families with a number of children is also among the many helpful activities of these branches. Another branch helped a member who had lost her home by fire by collecting 25 cents from each member and purchasing her a set of dishes.

Unemployment has been the big problem and where possible work has been found, even if only for a few days at a time. One branch which made over everything possible used the scraps for quilts. Some branches received mill ends and pieces that had imperfections in the weave, for making up, from the woollen mills, by making their relief apportionment there.

A prize for the best basket of mixed vegetables brought to the December meeting resulted in 18 baskets for Christmas cheer. His School fees paid—bus fares paid—and school books purchased in some branches. Some gave seeds and potatoes for relief gardens and acted as inspectors of them. Another branch house cleaned and papered for a convalescent mother. Maternity loan baskets and many layettes, nurses employed, and help given with the heavier housework reported by a number of branches. Taxes paid for an elderly lady which was a very worthy deed. Baby clinics, baby carriages given where needed, thrift exhibits. Daily papers and individual gifts to aged people in home.

Dried apples and corn, buttons, mending wool, thread, needles and elastic were included in bales sent to the north.

Collecting tinfoil for the Hospital for Crippled Children, who make articles, which through the aid of a benevolent society are sold and the proceeds go to the hospital upkeep.

A successful plan followed by one branch is that of dividing the work into four sections, each section is assigned certain duties and they co-operate with the branch as a whole.

One branch in co-operation with the Legion, Girl Guides and Cubs, provided toys, fruit, stockings and mittens for twenty-two children in their own community, and toys and stockings, mittens and scarfs for twenty-two children in Kenora district; and ten pairs of gum rubbers to another northern point. In addition to this, large quantities of food, clothing and five complete layettes were distributed by this branch.

The admission fee for members at a social evening was a donation of clothing which was valued at \$30.00. While one member was able through her mite-box to contribute groceries for relief to the value of \$26.00; other members did individual service by clothing some needy child and providing one meal per day for the child during the winter months.

Judicious assistance with sympathetic sharing of care and

sorrow has been the policy of many branches.

In Northern Ontario (Temiskaming) the Institutes co-operate with the Municipal Relief Board, two of their members being appointed to the District Board of seven members and a secretary. Through this means food, clothing, coal oil and medical services were provided from December 1st to July 31st, reaching thirty-two heads of families, one hundred and thirteen dependants and forty-three single men, on stated conditions involving a certain amount of employment. This was accompanied by a distribution committee headquarters open for two hours one evening each week.

Many special cases requiring medical or other care have received liberal consideration.

Branches in whose communities there was little need for relief or where a need was otherwise supplied, sent their supplies to other needy centres.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Provincial Convener, Mrs. W. Grattan, Port Arthur

Activities as Seen Through Conveners' Reports

A splendid beginning in this department of work was made by one branch through their roll call which was to be an answer to—"What we Owe Our Community!"

This should be an effective way of finding out just what lines of activities might be most helpful and how. Methods of securing necessary funds for the work as reported by conveners were largely through parties, banquets, special social events as Halloween, masquerades, and similar occasions. Funds thus raised were expended on—Upkeep of rest rooms, donations to operating libraries and establishment of new ones, furnishing hospital units (4), endowing wards (4); park equipment provided, and playground equipment for orphanage.

Other social features included plays, garden parties, musicals and teas.

Community Halls have received generous assistance in the way of redecoration, furniture, kitchen equipment, pianos and rentals.

Cemeteries have been cared for, special decoration ceremonies conducted, fencing provided, caretakers financed and wreaths, flowers and other beautification methods freely given in both labour and finances.

Schools were not overlooked in this field of action. Encouragement by means of special prizes was given for spelling, writing, entrance standing and school fairs. Picnics generously arranged for; first aid kits; financial assistance in aid of music, school nurse and teacher; special Christmas treat; beautification of school grounds, and play equipment have all received due attention and consideration from Institutes in this area.

Social—A community evening each month during the winter was a worth-while feature in one branch. This consisted of an attractive programme, and social time, each family providing something for the lunch and contributing ten cents to the finances.

Another community undertaking by one of the alert branches was that of a series of community concerts by good local talent, or other available artists.

Music clubs and debating societies have also been instrumental in contributing both recreation and education for all.

The following groupings of activities gives a concise statement of the scope and nature of the work carried on in the different parts of the Province.

HOW WE MAKE OUR MONEY

By sewing, by giving suppers, having home baking sales, mystery and white elephant sales, social, teas, dances, plays, concerts, picnics, banquets, musical festivals, Valentine and Halloween parties, field days, by serving lunches at school fairs, catering for lodges and banquets, quiltings and debates.

HOW WE SPEND OUR MONEY

One branch gave financial help to an elderly gentleman in a hospital; another endowed a bed. Many gave donations of money, equipment and canned goods to orphanages and hospitals and first aid kits to schools. Other gifts included those to libraries, to Girl Guides, Boy Scouts, to playgrounds at schools, rinks, coaching classes and short-course winners, Santa Claus fund, public speaking contests; community halls, Christmas cheer, to benches for the park, to the Bible Society and Navy League, to fire sufferers for fire equipment, for the upkeep of street lights and many branches gave bank books to new babies; some gave prizes at the Agricultural Fair and one branch hired a supervisor for a bathing pavilion.

One branch re-roofed a hall; another bought goitre tablets and paid the transportation of children to a clinic where five had tonsils removed. Many sent fruit, flowers and magazines to "shut-ins".

HOW WE ENJOY OURSELVES

This includes picnics, socials, Christmas trees and gifts, concerts with local talent, entertaining grandmothers and teaching Guides and Brownies sewing.

DIVISIONAL HEADINGS

1. Local Improvements—Parks, playgrounds, and sports, halls, cemeteries, libraries, lighting, beautification.
2. Social Features—Debates, plays, concerts, entertainments, picnics, garden parties, etc.
3. Other Interests—For the whole community including proper use of leisure time.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH

Provincial Convener, Miss E. Appelbe, Georgetown

Reports show an ever increasing interest in Historical Research throughout Ontario, but still show a need of better understanding of best methods of procedure. Study annual reports from 1925 to 1930 inclusive, as aids in this connection, especially 1925 for those to whom the work is new.

A valuable suggestion was advanced by one convener by a motion that, "The Institute keep on file all records which have been gathered, and no doubt make a valuable contribution to the county Historical Society."

The best way to secure historical information as suggested by the convener is "House to house visitation" and she adds that possibly the knowledge of local and Provincial history has increased by 50% since the committee has been carrying on this work through the Institutes over less than ten year period. Centenaries are being observed, memorials to pioneers erected, old landmarks and historic sites

being marked, family histories recorded.

Establishment of County Museums is a part of our objective and it is urged that every possible effort be put forth to secure the valuable material available throughout the Province.

These pioneer implements and utensils belong to rural Ontario. Are we going to keep them where they will be within easy reach of our own people, of our children and their teachers, and of future generations or are we permitting them to be sold to add to the attractions of the cities or, worse still, to be lost altogether because of our carelessness and indifference? True, it requires money for this purpose, but a beginning can be made in a small way. See if there is not an available room in your county buildings. Enlist the support and services of the men, appeal to your county council, your school inspector, your county Old Boys' Association if there is one, or to your millionaires if you have any. What Simcoe, Wellington, Halton and Prince Edward counties are doing surely can be done by other counties. Capitalize your history. It will make your county town more attractive.

People are talking of the necessity of learning how to use our leisure. Let me recommend to you this subject of Historical Research and Current Events. You may make of it either a quiet indoor occupation or an active outdoor recreation. You may pore over records, maps, family or state documents, or you may search out natural beauty spots or places of historic interest and photograph them or seek out almost forgotten tales of by-gone industries, stories of schools, churches, roadmaking, and water traffic from the oldest inhabitants.

We commemorate this year the 400th anniversary of the discovery of Canada, and in Ontario the 150th anniversary of the coming of the Loyalists to this Province, and the 100th of Toronto's cityhood.

The convener of the Belleville area forwarded half a dozen papers and a newspaper with the history of the Clare family of Hastings County. Among the papers was one on "Quilts and Quilt Patterns" by Miss Hazel Farley, B.A. A history of Percy Township and the story of a Barn Raising, and a story of Murray Township with a list of U.E.L. settlers' names.

Central Ontario convener recommended the study of the pioneer roads and preservation of small booklets often published in connection with local happenings. Already there have been published about fifty books and booklets connected with the history of Wellington County and they hope to have copies of these in their county museum at the O.A.C., Guelph.

West York reports that they have yet in the Vellore district two outside bake ovens and three smoke houses for meat, and at one branch a paper was given on the landmarks of York County.

The Buck re-union held in Halton County, planned and carried out by Mrs. Colin Campbell of Winnipeg, daughter of Dr. Buck, was a wonderful example of what a re-union should be. The local Institute assisted Mrs. Campbell in the serving of refreshments during the three days.

The Kincairdine Area had papers on the Life of Nina Moore Jamieson. North Perth celebrated their 25th anniversary at their District Annual