

## HOME AND COUNTRY

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## EDITORIAL COMMENT

## HOME AND COUNTRY

The Provincial Board of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario considered the problems of publishing "Home and Country" at their last meeting. They are anxious to have the paper serve the members in the best possible way. A policy of regularity in publishing will be followed. In the year 1935 it will be published quarterly, with issues in January, April, July and October.

The main purpose of the paper will be to carry news of Women's Institute activities, and achievements. This kind of information cannot help but broaden the vision of each branch, and deepen its understanding of local needs. We are more aware of our own circumstances when we can compare them with others. And to know how someone else has analyzed their situation and brought about fine accomplishments is not only an inspiration, but may be a desirable guide.

Four printed pages do not give a great deal of space, not enough to tell the stories of all the objectives and accomplishments of the Institute Branches in Ontario. On account of this lack of space, sometimes, your editors will have to summarize many of the items. They will do this with regret as the spontaneity and freshness of the local story makes a much more readable article than an editor's attempt to summarize the activities of many localities. We shall be glad to have your advice as to how much space should be allotted to news of local branches. We had planned to use more of this information in this issue, but have not been able to do so on account of the importance of giving you a glimpse of the conventions and the work of the Standing Committees. Not only will this publication try to keep the readers in touch with Institute activities in Ontario, but it will also try to give information of outstanding work of other provinces and parts of the Empire. From time to time reports of other organizations and agencies with belated programmes will be included.

This publication will not be used to present subject matter, material in home economics or any of the arts and sciences indirectly related to home-making. Such information will be given in publications issued by the department, letters, and possibly by feature stories. The Women's Institute staff will be responsible for passing on such useful information through their demonstration-lectures, short course schools, discussions, exhibitions, coaching classes and local leader training schools.

## RESOLUTIONS

Where do resolutions go? Does anything ever happen? Yes, resolutions finally do arrive where their advice helps to show those responsible for government something of public opinion. The Provincial Resolutions Committee of the Ontario Women's Institutes collected the resolutions passed by the 13 convention areas, condensed and summarized them in line with the non-sectarian and non-political policy of the Women's Institutes. The Cabinet of the Ontario Government appreciated them as the voice of 43,000 Women's Institute members.

In December, Mrs. R. B. Colloton, Provincial President of Women's Institutes, presented the resolutions to the Provincial Cabinet and discussed with them circumstances provoking the petitions. The intent of each resolution is apparent in the following summary:

That a school for feeble-minded children be established in the north-western section of Ontario. (From Rainy River District.)

That a change be made in the laws governing the maintenance of wards of the Children's Aid Society in unorganized districts and in municipalities unable to meet their share of costs, as children are now being neglected and left in unwholesome surroundings on account of the cost. Direct assessment as in the case of Houses of Refuge is suggested, or that the Government assume a larger share of the cost of maintenance.

That all juvenile offenders up to the age of eighteen come under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court.

That all examination fees of public schools be abolished.

That singing be a part of the regular Public School Curriculum.

That High School Curriculum be rearranged to stress the practical rather than the academic subjects.

That the Public Health Nursing Service be restored to Algoma and St. Joseph Island, where it has been so beneficial for the past fifteen years and is so greatly missed at the present.

That a health certificate be required of all handlers of public foods in restaurants.

That the date of issue of automobile licenses be changed from January 1st to July 1st, the latter date being better adapted to farm finances.

That the law regarding lights and reflectors on bicycles be more strictly enforced.

That a woman be on the Censorship Board.

That the laws regarding salacious and undesirable literature be more strictly enforced.

That the cost of hydro be reduced to the rural consumer.

That a road be opened from Sudbury to Killarney—

1. To provide access in spring and autumn when approach by water or on ice is impossible.

2. To provide medical attention for Killarney.

3. To provide access to school for children of settlers in toward Lake Penage who are now unable to obtain any school education.

4. To open up means of livelihood to those unable to break into the fish monopoly.

5. To prevent so much intermarrying.

6. To open up to sportsmen the wonderful country around Lake Penage and thus stimulate tourist traffic.

DEVELOP RESPONSIBLE  
CITIZENSHIP

Mrs. A. D. McDougall, Maxville,  
1934 Convener, Education.

In reviewing the work of the committee on education for the past year, decided progress has been made and more interest stimulated in community educational measures. More attention to adult education must be stressed these days and the Women's Institute creates opportunities and courses of study which will broaden and enrich our minds.

One of the problems which confronts the Institute, whose roots go back into the past, is the one of discarding outworn methods of work and equipping itself to meet the issues of the new day. The first step would be for the community to assume responsibility for creating worthy occupations for its youth.

We are confronted with a competitive economic system which has been growing up for hundreds of years, and which we are only beginning to recognize as the source of our economic troubles. Hitherto, we have trained for vocations almost entirely to satisfy material wants; now we must train our youth to realize their relation to society. The only field of human effort which seems to offer an opportunity for the multiplication of workers is that of personal service to human needs. The amount of food which we can consume is limited; we do not need more than a certain quantity of clothes, but of the deeper hungers there is no end. Mankind has never yet been surfeited with beauty, friendships, adventure or any of the other influences which lift life above the level of the material. The finer values in this area are not born of the machine, they come to us through personal agencies.

Ought we not, then, to become members of a great brotherhood of really educated people who will be responsible for providing opportunities for the development of all the faculties of all the people. Until this is done there will be graft in politics, greed in industry, distrust in labor, indeed, things will be no better than at present. We must have a new and higher type of personal character. Ideals have not been wanting in the past but they have not been the determining factor. We have not been asking, "Is it right?", but "Will it pay?"

But, we are going to take better care of each other in the future than in the past; and the emphasis is shifting from the feeding of hungry stomachs to the enrichment of stunted lives.

## PROMOTE BETTER HEALTH

Mrs. W. F. B. Parsons, M.B.E.,  
1934 Convener, Health and Child  
Welfare.

Women's Institute Health Conveners cannot rest on the laurels gained through their excellent accomplishments in past years as increased co-operation of Health and Child Welfare authorities assure us of even greater accomplishments in 1935.

Honourable Dr. Faulkner, Minister of Health, stressed the fact at the Toronto Convention that his Department stood ready to render every possible service to Institute branches. Send for the Baby Books and health literature—they are very instructive and helpful.

Literature and information on Child Welfare may be obtained upon request from the Canadian Council of Child and Family Welfare, Ottawa, by sending the name of the branch Health convener. Information regarding the establishment of a Visiting Nursing Service may be obtained upon request from the Victorian Order of Nurses, Ottawa.

ENCOURAGING NEW  
CANADIANS

Miss Emily Guest, Toronto,  
1934 Convener, Canadianization.

The Ontario Institutes in 1934 followed in the main the lines of work recommended by the Committee: newcomers were welcomed in the community, not alone the few from overseas, but brides, babies and new dwellers in old homes, the women invited to the branch meetings; homes were found for children from Children's Shelters, and the welfare of foster children and minors on farms looked after; immigration laws were studied; vocational guidance in rural schools continued to be urged, not only as a help for Ontario young people but also for those coming from other lands.

Unemployment aroused deepening concern because of its deadening effect on those emerging from school and college fired with zeal to be of service but finding no outlet. A survey of Canada's population to find out the needs of people of various ages and adequate ways of meeting them is urged, also a survey of natural resources and their development for the good of all. Where needs are properly met in a young and resourceful country like this, it is felt unemployment should be an unheard of thing. The better organization of farmers for high-grade production, better grading, co-operative marketing and the study of home and foreign markets would, the Institutes believe, increase opportunities for immigrants, improve rural social life, and general prosperity.

Kingston area branches send Christmas cards, put gifts on the Community Tree, and look after young farm boys when ill or lonely.

A little Dutch girl came to one neighborhood, knowing no English, thinking Canada terribly bleak and cold. The women helped her with poultry raising and the language. Next spring she had a flock of one thousand chicks, could speak very well, and a few years later took a Coaching Course and won the Royal Winter Fair trip.

Estonian members of Hamilton area gave a tea with an exhibit of native needlework and refreshments served by waitresses in Estonian costume.

Some topics studied in papers or Roll Call this year were: Aptitudes required by the immigrant who makes good; current events pertaining to immigration; my immigrant ancestors; foreigners who have made good.

Regretfully we stop, but conveners, let your light shine. Put your candle of achievements on top, not under the bushel. Thus, others may be inspired by your deeds.

We urge every branch or group of branches to establish a Child Welfare Clinic. This can be inexpensively accomplished by forming a Clinic Committee, extending an invitation to the local doctor to assume direction, obtaining a suitable room, schoolroom if possible, and procuring a set of scales and record cards. Further detailed information will be eagerly given upon request. These clinics are to keep well children well. Children with physical defects or illness should be referred to the family doctor. Through regular weighing and direction in feeding and care of the children strong Canadian citizens are assured. Stress the necessity of annual medical examination of adults. Cancer and tuberculosis have hopeful cures if detected and treated in the early stages.

Every branch should devote at least 5 minutes to a Health talk at each monthly meeting; plenty of material is available for this purpose.

Do not forget to be the means of stressing maternal care in your district. As Health Convener, please remember I am at your service. Do not hesitate to ask for any assistance it is possible to give you.