

FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS IMPORTANT

Miss F. Durnin, Dunganon,
1934 Convener, Home Economics.

The months will soon pass and we will again be drafting the year's programme. Home Economics the first ideal of the W. I. organization is dear to the heart of every woman. It can be introduced into the programme in roll calls, demonstrations, papers, addresses, discussions and exhibits.

The 1934 reports indicated that the W. I. has been facing and solving a few of the present day problems; using wild fruits on the dearth of cultivated fruits, continuing the educational campaign on canning vegetables and canning more of them, remodelling clothing for children, using leftovers or discarded materials in making quilts and rugs. The above are but a few samples.

In planning your new programme, I would refer you to the divisional headings in the September issue of "Home and Country," although I cannot claim to be the author.

Could we spend more time on discussions on Family Relationships? Fate may turn things topsy-turvy but it is more serious if there is something wrong between the people. Olga Knoff says, "The whole spirit of the family depends on the spirit of the wife and mother. Without any question the family is the central unit, the nucleus from which all the abilities and capacities of human beings develop." Women's great work is to make the actual time that other members of the family pass in the home as agreeable and fruitful as possible. We, as women, have a unique role to play. We do not arrive at our fullest competence when imitating man, but when doing team work with him. We need to educate ourselves for this vital task.

OPTIMISTIC AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK

Mrs. J. A. Deviney, Vernonville,
1934 Convener, Agriculture.

I hope that 1935 will be the most prosperous yet along agricultural lines. Reports from 1934 year's work show that the members have not let discouragements keep them from carrying on most effectively. Gardens were made and cared for, home surroundings beautified, co-operation with local horticultural societies, interest taken in school grounds and fairs, the raising of poultry and a study touching on most every line of agriculture carried on the average farm to today. The members have learned much by such demonstrations as the canning and serving of fowl, how to plant and graft a rosebush, wool and how to use it, grading and marketing eggs, killing and plucking a fowl in less than five minutes, etc.

Our Ontario women have not only looked to necessities of life in agriculture, they have not forgotten that beautification plays an important part in life. Nearly every woman is striving for a perennial border, flowering shrubs, beautiful and well-kept lawns on the farm property. Nearly every branch in Ontario plans an agricultural meeting for every year's programme.

The outlook for the New Year is most cheerful. Reports of experts tell us that grain and livestock prices in general are on the upward trend, the milk situation has improved, returns from poultry are better than a year ago, hog prices are decidedly higher, and other prices have improved. Keeping these things in mind, let us not be discouraged. I really believe that last winter's damages were the crisis, and now the silver lining of that black cloud is going to show. Let us, as rural women, plan for a great year on the farm. There is no better place on earth.

With the co-operation of our new minister, The Honourable Duncan Marshall, we hope to accomplish a great deal.

PUBLICIZE CANADIAN PRODUCTS

Mrs. J. M. Percival, Addison,
1934 Convener, Canadian Industries.

The Institutes have encouraged the study of our industries, and stressed the buying of "Canadian Made" goods and products.

Splendid reports came from all the convention areas stating that many meetings have been held devoted solely to Canadian Industries. Exhibits from raw to finished product were displayed and tested. Never before has so much study and publicity been given this branch of our Women's Institute work. Let us have as our objective a better Canada. Let us get away from the idea that the word "imported" adds glamour; and realize that "Canadian Made" is better. Buy that brand and make Canada prosperous and progressive.

Let us study, learn and stress our industries by demonstrations, papers, contests, exhibits, posters, roll calls, films, pictures, talks on visits or imaginary trips to factories, industries teas and monthly meetings so that when 1935 ends we may understand our wonderful industries as never before.

We hope that each Institute will spend time reviewing some of the springs of our industrial life, and report many new ideas that will be of service to our sister Institute members.

Excellent results will flow from increased knowledge and understanding of Canadian Industries and products.

Let us in 1935 with renewed faith and love to do our part, small though it may seem, add to the ever-increasing store of Canadian wealth, Canadian prosperity, and international concord and goodwill.

COMMENDS COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE

Mrs. Wm. Grattan,
1934 Convener, Community Activities.

"The horizon ever widens for forward-looking folks" is surely true and our Women's Institutes are making a real contribution to rural culture and leading its members into a wider understanding of life.

The Women's Institutes have been exerting a wholesome social influence throughout the communities in which they are established. They are co-operating with the neighborhood in supplying valuable equipment for community undertakings and as well have been making use of all available talent and service.

Series of community concerts, music clubs, debating societies, have been organized by many Institutes. Guidance in recreation has been given.

Schools have been assisted by Institutes helping to finance special teachers in music and health and supplying play equipment. School grounds and public squares have been beautified by desirable landscaping and planting. One branch has introduced growing beech trees in the community. Regular "clean up" days have been introduced in some communities. "Dump grounds" have been removed from conspicuous places.

Many of the branches have cared for the cemeteries of their localities and arranged for memorial services.

Every Women's Institute Branch is responsible for some act of kindness—assistance to the unemployed, attention to the sick, clothing for new babies, supplies for fire sufferers and maternity cases, Christmas cheer for needy children, etc.

This is a dim picture of the material side of community activities. Who can estimate the development of mutual goodwill, the abiding fellowship and love that begins when neighbor meets neighbor and spreads through the branch, district and province reaching from coast to coast and steadily building up a more glorious Canada.

IMPRESSIONS OF THE 1934 CONVENTIONS

Miss M. V. Powell, Institutes Branch

Owing to distances and dates of conventions, it was not possible for me to attend every convention gathering, so that, in part, I am dependent upon information received through other sources, but which brings us a definite message of interest in the work.

At Swastika was gathered an eager, friendly and expectant group. Long distances, sparse settlements, do not dampen the ardour of these home-makers, who are most anxious to benefit by the information and suggestions for home and community betterment.

Exchange of experiences, better home practices and wholesome social life play a large part in these more remote areas. From our northern branches we gather some of their spirit of courage, service and co-operation which is essential to our success for family and community well being.

Enthusiastic members of the Algonia and St. Joseph Island area met at East Korah. Continued action in health education was reported, an attractive exhibit of homecraft work provided a means of thrift education for many.

Helpful discussions on Institute lines gave evidence of splendid interpretation of the objective of the organization and an intelligent grasp of the needs and possibilities of service. Health and nutrition needs received careful consideration.

The Manitoulin branches are continuing their activities in dental clinics and studying nutrition and clothing.

Junior work was reported by one of the girls showing keen appreciation of this branch of instruction. Branches as a whole are concerned with community life and the preservation of law and order and morale of the people. Cordial hospitality widened the spirit of good fellowship and neighbourliness.

Powassan provided attractive, practical thrift exhibits, and time for generous discussions on such subjects as programmes, finances, school fairs, care of neglected and underprivileged children, officers' problems, reports, business procedure and possible educational work. The need and value of health measures and habits was stressed.

Good fellowship, alert, progressive spirit pervades the Rainy River gathering. Poise and dignified assurance in the work being carried on gave a feeling of solidity and understanding of purpose which cannot fail to be productive of good. Papers of excellent type disclosed the wholesome trend of the homemaking, health building effort being put forth.

Social atmosphere was most helpful, and interest in thought-provoking subjects was well sustained throughout all sessions.

Opening of a County Museum, Northern relief work and legislation were important features of the Barrie Convention. Successful musical festivals, health clinics and good branch meetings were reported, while educational addresses, junior work and exhibits made an acceptable programme.

Libraries, rest rooms, cemetery care were among the community interests receiving support. Social life and recreation, neighbourliness and good cheer were included in branch interests. The whole convention was carried through expeditiously, revealing good work done throughout the area.

The women of Belleville area are co-operating to help home-makers in rural districts to become happy and efficient with better understanding of Canadian Citizenship.

The value of punctuality, a well-planned programme, and cordiality, were some features of success elicited from the discussions on branch meetings. More "health conscious" may be said of this area.

Enthusiasm, optimism and eagerness to progress was the feeling pervading the Stratford Convention. Procedure, mothercraft, education for peace, health programmes, beautification, were among the topics receiving consideration. "Well-informed, efficient consideration."

Enthusiasm, keen interest and appreciation of Institute work characterized the Eastern Ontario Convention held in Ottawa. The predominant thoughts recurring through the well-planned, instructive programme may be expressed in the realization of individual responsibility and opportunities for service, especially the importance of a high standard of health for individuals and in organization for efficient citizenship, and a clear value of the Institutes to Ontario and to the nation.

The dominant thought of the Kingston area centred in good literature and good movies. In discussing community interests stress was given the need of wholesome, attractive recreation; the possibility of securing good clean films by educating public opinion to object to indecent pictures so strenuously that they would cease.

Prominence was given the subject of reading—the importance of keeping abreast of the times through newspapers, magazines, farm journals, where general information of the desirer type may be secured; the value of good literature and the need of providing light and interesting reading which children might enjoy and from which they would acquire the reading habit, leading to more educational work of literature later.

Western Ontario Convention held in London, celebrated its twentieth birthday with a record attendance and an atmosphere of optimism and courage.

Adult education was a dominant theme. More study and research were recommended. Each and every session emphasized the feeling that this organization which has girdled the earth has brought a wealth of purpose and a degree of efficiency to home and community life.

Progress, efficiency, and service were keynotes of the convention of Hamilton area. The objective of this energetic area is for a better understanding of the science of homemaking; promotion of good health, realization of the elements of beauty and through progressive attitude to attain cultural satisfaction. Adult education was recognized as essential to more abundant community life.

The final convention gathering of the Central Area combined the practical, cultural and social atmosphere of the entire organization. The spirit of progress, a desire for information, a thirst for knowledge, and a readiness for service was noted everywhere.

Adult education, health progress, co-operative effort in world peace all received the attention of the gatherings.

Three of the Conventions had the privilege of hearing the Honourable Duncan Marshall, Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, who expressed keen interest in more and better agricultural education for rural boys and girls, and the fostering of a greater appreciation of agricultural life.

Miss B. McDermand, Superintendent of Ontario Women's Institutes, also made acceptable contributions to several of the conventions.

Summing up the series of Convention gatherings, there is reason for optimism when we note the spirit of service which prevailed, the definite desire for help in homemaking problems and the eagerness for progress and development within the scope of the Institutes. The approximate attendance at these thirteen area conventions totalled 3,700 different women.