

News Flashes From the Branches

FEDERATED BOARD DELIBERATES

Representatives of Women's Institutes of the Province Meet in Toronto

At a meeting of the Provincial Board held in Toronto on November 22 and 23, a new standing committee was created with the title of "Peace Education and International Relationships." This committee will not compel consideration of all the branches of activity covered by the League of Nations, but will cover those in which Women's Institute members are most interested, and also encourage a better understanding of the problems of various nationalities.

In order not to increase the number of standing committees, the work of the two committees on Community Activities and Relief will be combined for 1935 and also Canadian Industries and Agriculture will function together. This reorganization should prevent much of the overlapping experienced in the past.

Mrs. J. E. Houck was appointed convener of the new committee on Peace Education and International Relationships, and will be responsible for outlining a plan of study. This will be available to the Institutes in the near future.

After hearing of at least one instance of a group of Relief Land Settlers who wished to form a Women's Institute Branch, but were deterred on account of the responsibility of Federation and district fees, the Provincial Board expressed willingness to co-operate with districts concerned in abrogating fees in such cases until the branch organization was well-established and better financial footing attained. In each instance, it will be necessary for those concerned to apply for and receive the necessary sanction.

The members of the Board discussed desirable terms of service for officers of branches, districts and convention areas. Consensus of opinion was that a restricted term was in the best interests of the work. Provincial officers reported that perusal of literature from other provinces seemed to show that this experience and opinion is shared in common.

In view of the fact that some of the convention areas have made contributions to Relief as a tribute to Mr. Putnam on his retirement, the Board felt that the members in general would wish him to have some personal memento of their esteem and affection to retain, and supplemented the "Putnam Relief Fund" with the gift of a typewriter on behalf of the membership of the Province. Mr. Putnam is now making use of this to tap out a history of Ontario Women's Institutes.

Financial Status

The following report shows the financial standing of Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario from October, 1933, to September 30, 1934. The balance shows the funds from which expenses will be paid for the remainder of 1934 and 1935. The accounts were audited and certified correct by J. C. Prior.

Receipts

Oct. 1, 1933, Bank Balance	\$4,731.80
Fed. Fees and exchanges..	3,483.07
Song Sheets, Life Mem. Pins, Fed. Pins and exchange	75.20
Refund from McCoomb Press, re "Home and Country"	63.60
Bank Interest	84.04
Total	\$8,437.71

LOCAL HISTORY RECORDED

Miss E. Appelbe, Georgetown, 1934 Convener, Historical Research and Current Events.

As we read the area reports for 1934, we are by turns elated or depressed. When a manuscript like that of Belle Finlayson's appears, or a report like that of the convener of Thunder Bay, our spirits soar; we feel that great things are being accomplished. Here is real interest and research. But when a report states that in a certain area some forty papers on Historical Research and perhaps half of that number on Current Events were given, but no mention is made as to who wrote these, nor of their quality or present whereabouts, then like the Foy family in Mabel Dunham's book, we feel "Dumm." Original manuscripts should be preserved. Send one copy to the Provincial Convener and keep the original in a safe place in the county where it belongs. Again, we advise the appointment of a qualified county archivist to care for them.

Parry Sound, Muskoka area, is fortunate in its choice of a convener who realizes that there is no time to be lost in securing first hand information from those pioneers who are still living. Need I add that mention is made of the advent of the Dionne Quintuplets as an important current event.

Farther north less populous districts make the work more difficult, but encouraging reports come from Manitoulin, and Algoma is making a beginning.

This year the outstanding event in the Hamilton area is the establishing of the Museum in Cayuga, Haldimand County. For this the Institutes have worked hard. The county has given financial assistance and the use of a room in the county buildings.

For some years Simcoe County Institutes have had the nucleus of a museum housed in the Barrie Library. Now the collection, to which frequent additions are being made, is stored in a fire-proof building donated by their county officials.

Several of the conveners are new to the work but have made fair beginnings. We would urge the Institutes in their areas to give them every possible co-operation and we recommend that all conveners, branch, district and convention area, secure a file of Provincial Annual Reports from 1923-1930 and study the directions and suggestions given in our reports on Historical Research.

It would help the Provincial Convener, who often wishes to write direct to someone for special information, if every convener would add to her report her own name and address and the name of the branch and district and if the writer of each paper would do likewise.

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Expenditures.

Convention Grants	\$ 400.00
Dominion Federation Fees	500.00
Pub. "Home and Country"	578.60
Vol. IV, "Countrywomen of the World"	14.70
Dist. Annuals, Conventions, Trav. Exp.	645.01
Board Meetings & Lunches, 1933-34	732.35
Liaison Membership	20.00
Bonding Treasurer	12.00
Birks-Ellis-Ryrie, pins	57.00
Mrs. A. Walker, Trav. Exp.	6.00
Transfer charge bank account, Whitby	3.95
Exchange	22.05
Postage and Stationery	83.55
Auditor & Secretary's Salary	285.00
Courtesy recognitions	14.10
Total	\$3,374.31
Balance	5,063.40
Total	\$8,437.71

Oakcrest, Norfolk Co.—Dried over 60 lbs. of apples, some of which were sent to Hearst and were distributed to 16 families, 9 of whom were "back to the land" settlers.

Kohler, Haldimand Co.—Had a grandmothers' meeting at which antiques and relics were on display. Each lady gave the history of her exhibit. The oldest grandmother contributed a splendid paper.

Fisherville, Haldimand Co.—Had each grandmother describe her wedding garments as part of their grandmothers' programme.

Jasper, Brockville District—Outfitted a mother and her crippled boy to be taken to Ottawa and assisted the Rotary Club in having the boy treated. A sewing machine was given to one in need, and articles sent to the Shelter. Contributed generously to their local ball team.

Grand Valley, Dufferin Co.—Has an excellent Choral Class giving successful concerts.

Demorestville, Prince Edward Co.—Staged a nutrition competition, "Dinner Menu for Four, not exceeding \$1.50 in cost."

East Victoria—A branch officer in this section says, "Just 11 members paid their fees at the annual meeting. Why don't they all pay at the beginning of the year?"

Kawartha Valley, Victoria Co.—Is having all children in the county given diphtheria toxoid.

Powles' Corners, Victoria Co.—Arranged a meeting when four junior girls gave character sketches of famous men in their county.

Victoria Square Juniors, York Co.—Had "Who's Who and Why in Canada" for roll call, followed by a two-minute talk on their motto, a talk on Canadian Women of Note, a demonstration in letter writing, and music.

Ignace, Kenora District—Had an address from a medical doctor on serums, toxins, immunization and preventatives.

Micksburg, Renfrew Co.—Had a demonstration on making a "Hot Bed" on their Agricultural Day.

Carpenter, Rainy River District—Had a roll call, "A Benefit I Have Received from Being an Institute Member."

Emo, Rainy River District—Is active in children's interests. They assist with musical instruction in the school, plan for children's garden

plots, and are providing school books for some students unable to secure these personally. Costumes were made for musical festival entrants.

Tavistock, Perth Co.—Sponsored a School Teachers' and Pupils' Reunion.

Mitchell, Perth Co.—Took the members for a trip across Canada, special stops being made at points of interest. The trip was made by members bringing post-card views of Canadian places en route.

Avonton, Perth Co.—Held two interesting debates, studied current events, had papers on "Wheat", "Honey" and the "Production of an Automobile".

Staffa, Perth Co.—Has studied "Birds"—the music of bird calls, their living habits, appearance and identification; contests were held.

South Lanark had a talk on "Care of the Feet," and demonstration of foot exercises; also had a "Fish" day—"Salmon from Soup to Salad".

Drumbo, Oxford Co.—Have been studying rural school problems and supervision, including hot lunches, promotions, homework and similar features.

Caledon, Peel Co.—Held a "Health" meeting in July in connection with which there was a practical demonstration on "Caring for Home Accidents".

Inman Road, Haldimand Co.—Had a lawyer address the branch on "Women's Political Rights". They also had a "Mock Council" meeting as part of their legislative study.

Abingdon, Lincoln Co.—Reports "We had a most enjoyable day at Dunnville visiting the Canning Factory, and Monarch Knitting Factory and Fabrics, Limited. We saw the process of canning tomatoes; of raw wool from sheep to lovely sweaters, dresses, suits and the manufacture of beautiful towels, spreads, and covers of various kinds. We felt this one of the best days we had ever spent and learned much about our industries."

Fulton-Grassie, Lincoln Co.—Bought a fleece of wool, washed and picked it, and used it for comforters. Six were made during the winter. Tops were pieced from remnants, bought at five pounds for a dollar.

Iroquois, Dundas Co.—Has carried on a "Well Baby Clinic", outfitted three fatherless Indian boys for school, bought glasses for children, and sponsored an oratorical contest.

STUDY GOVERNMENT PROBLEMS

Miss Jean M. Ross, Lucan, 1934 Convener, Legislation.

In response to an editorial call for a contribution on legislation to the January issue of "Home and Country," I think some of the space allotted me would be well spent in praising the very excellent reports received and congratulating the conveners responsible for the same. While my preceding two years in this office brought me but three and four reports, this year I have heard from no less than seven convention areas. That, and the fact that every report is replete with enthusiasm and suggestions, speaks well for the increased interest in legislation.

Among these suggestions is the enlarged use of the question box. A speaker, who is an authority upon his subject, is asked at the conclusion of his address to answer questions previously deposited in the question box. The use of the question box is also advised at every meeting, the convener of legislation answering at each meeting the questions placed therein at the previous meeting.

Demonstrations are also making their appearance. In the study of the Franchise Act, the marking of a ballot

was demonstrated. A council meeting was staged by another branch.

New sources of information are advised. The Manual of History in use in Public Schools contains excellent material on Government, and Mrs. Parson's "Manual for Women's Meetings", published by The MacMillan Company is helpful in the study of parliamentary procedure.

A word about resolutions. Many come before conventions, asking for a decision upon two or more questions, whereas one resolution should demand one decision only. Others ask for something for which the law has already made provision. Let every branch and district study thoroughly any resolution brought before them, making themselves familiar with the law governing the same before approving it and sending it on to their convention.

As for future work, may I suggest more study and discussion. We know the world is in a far from happy condition, that in the midst of plenty there is poverty, that our resources might be put to greater use for the greater benefit of mankind, and that unemployment still must be solved. The responsibility of this rests with man, not nature. Somehow man's laws governing our economic, industrial, national and international life have fallen short. How, we do not know. Only study, discussion and experiment can better them. We, through our legislation, are doing our bit. May we continue to do so.