

HOME AND COUNTRY

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

ROYAL SILVER JUBILEE

Greetings to His Majesty, King George V, will be sent from the rural women of Canada on the occasion of the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of his accession to the British Throne.

Through the Dominion Federation of Women's Institutes a message will convey to His Majesty an expression of the good will and loyalty of 71,000 Institute members in our Dominion, accompanied by sincere wishes that His Majesty may long be spared to continue his wise and gracious guidance of his peoples.

PROGRAMME MAKING

In the next two months Women's Institute members, through the Branch and District Annual meetings will be evaluating the worth of last year's programmes. This is an important contribution of annual meetings. It is the time to give accurate reports which summarize results and are sufficiently analytical to point the way to future progress.

The annual meetings will be much more effective if time is allowed for a discussion after each report. The following tests of a well-built programme are offered:

Has your Institute programme a definite purpose?

Is the subject matter related?

Has it a definite educational and cultural value?

Is it original in the adaptation of outside helps and suggestions?

Has it been planned to be a connecting-rod between the interests and needs of the Institute members and thereby effectively met their needs?

Can the individual member feel that her Institute year has been a year of definite accomplishment to her?

What has the Institute meant to the individual member? Has it enriched her life? Has it broadened

her vision? Has it helped her to solve her problems as a wife, mother, homemaker and citizen? Has it given her a foundation on which to build for the future?

Has it effected greater harmony between home and community life?

Has it broadened and enriched community resources for better living?

With discussion kept in line with these tests, a desirable emphasis should be found for the programme of next year. The executive or a special committee should work on the programme examining it from every angle. It may be wise to collect facts concerning the homes and the community, analyze the situation and determine ways of meeting desirable objectives. The methods necessary in such a survey might require the activity of the whole membership.

Good plans for making and administering a programme are necessary but good plans are not rigid. An effective programme is flexible, easily reshaped to meet the needs of each new day. The good programme is never completed. It is a growing thing on a firm foundation.

Someone has said "There are two types of worthwhile programmes which possess educational and cultural value to club members, one such as Home Economics and Mother's Club programmes, which is intended to help women in their vocational tasks; the other, such as International Relations and Music and Art programmes intended to broaden their mental horizon by providing an opportunity to become familiar with things outside their daily lives." We believe a combination of these two is what most members wish to have in the Institute programmes. The emphasis will vary according to the social, economic and educational resources of the community. We believe that every successful Institute programme will have something of information, inspiration and recreation in it. Or we can use another test, balancing education, service and entertainment in good proportions.

Interest is created by using a variety of methods in the development of the programme. Over-working the lecture method will result in dull meetings. We believe in making room for the participation of more members. The dialogue-forum, panel-discussion, open discussion, skits, and the round table may be used as well as the roll call on well-defined subjects. The goal or the objective is the first consideration and then the subject matter and methods best suited to the whole development planned. Demonstrations, exhibits, charts and slides can be used effectively where all other methods fail. Sometimes activities should be provided where everyone may learn by doing.

"Education includes all activities by which intelligence is developed, knowledge acquired and character formed." John Dewey.

MARY WRIGHT

A new personality has come to visit "Home and Country" and she says she is going to stay a long time. She has known the Women's Institutes every since their inception. She has stood by and watched some courageous failures. She has helped build some strong foundations for successful adventures in developing better home and community life. At times she voices a fine philosophy, but she is detail-minded and always sees a lot of little ways of building. In fact, she gets so involved with the smaller units of the work that we wonder if she sees the essentials. That quality makes her irritating at times. However, her sound judgment, sincerity, and thoroughness make her a fine person to have around. She loves to give advice, but she never nags. We cannot keep her quiet so she has a column on the back of this paper and will continue her contributions in future issues.

Her name is Mary Wright.

COMMUNITY PLAYS
DEVELOP FINE SPIRIT

Many Institute Programmes Include
Dramatics

Dramatics as sponsored by some of our Women's Institutes have developed both old and young. Carefully chosen plays and players with understanding coaches or leaders have produced excellent results. Reports reveal that the "play" is an excellent way to help young people to feel at ease before the public; poise has been acquired. Mind and body have responded to the training provided, better community spirit has been created and participants have come to know and understand each other better. Team work is encouraged, and is essential in successful acting. One must not only take his own part seriously, but must help to make the parts of others live. So loyalty results and character is developed.

Grace of movement has been gained, participants have become less shy and awkward, and definite improvement in manners, culture and social usages have resulted.

Friendships have been formed and unselfishness has fuller significance for all, for the selfish actor cannot be a convincing actor, he must forget self in order to portray another.

Speech Improved

The development of the speaking voice accompanied by greater clarity of speech has been noticed. Greater freedom in and use of better and larger vocabulary has developed. Memory has been cultivated. Assurance has come to us that those taking part in plays have definitely benefited. Not the least of the benefits of the "drama" has been the fostering of a love for good literature. One report says, "We try to choose good plays that foster a love for good literature and find our young people do like the better class in our own productions and in 'talkie' on the screen."

Plays have been put on by Institutes for purely recreational purposes, for entertainment, to develop local talent and to raise funds for community interests.

The story of the drama quickens the imagination, builds personality, enriches the character with unselfishness, tolerance and consideration for others. It develops assurance, grace and poise. Friendships are acquired. Plays give young people confidence in themselves. There is no doubt that this feature of work will develop in men and women greater love for mankind, and greater appreciation of the realities of life.

Names of some successful plays adapted to Women's Institutes' use are: "The Brown Mouse," "Our Aunt from California," "Barbara," "Enter Dora—Exit Dad," "The Goose Hangs High," "Brown-eyed Betty," "The Man Who Left the Farm," "Path Across the Hill," "Dust of the North." (Contributed by Miss M. V. Powell).

COMMITTEE PROMOTES
PEACE EDUCATION

Institutes May Study International
Relations

"This new committee," says Mrs. John Houck, Chippewa, the provincial convener, "was formed with the hope of meeting the long-felt need throughout the province of some definite educational work, chiefly along the lines of peace and other subjects of interest to women regarding international relations."

In outlining her plans for the function of this committee, Mrs. Houck makes it clear that this committee does not wish to dictate public opinion. Its aim is solely to present to each Women's Institute district throughout the province references which may be used to help women formulate their own opinions as to the right and wrong of this great subject. Are you an absolute pacifist? Is disarmament the way of peace? To what extent is the profit of war connected with the dangers of war?

Each Women's Institute interested in this subject should appoint its own branch convener who should get in touch with as many sources of information as possible. The provincial committee, headed by Mrs. Houck, is encouraging the study of the material of The League of Nations Society. Because of the large number of subjects covered by this material, the study of the problems of international peace might very well be emphasized for the coming year. District executives are urged to use the subject matter which will be presented to them before their district annual meeting and to appoint in each district a convener vitally interested in this work who will get in touch with every branch in the district in the promotion of peace education.

The League of Nations literature may be obtained from Miss A. A. Chown, League of Nations Society, 43 St. George St., Toronto. Any Institute paying membership fee (\$1.00) to Miss Edith Wilson, 533 Sherbourne St., Toronto, is entitled to the publications issued by the Society.

A limited number of articles on Peace and International Relationships may be secured through the Loan Collection of the Women's Institutes Branch, Parliament Buildings, Toronto.

Branch conveners who give monthly reports will find diligent examination of the daily press necessary. Special magazines such as "Current History" (published by New York Times) and an authoritative reference on modern European history should be extremely helpful. Institutes prepared to take up the work of this standing committee cannot help but promote intelligent thinking in their community.—Editors.

Standing Committees Initiate
Programme On Citizenship

Nine standing committees assist the Federated Women's Institutes to carry on work related to their duties as citizens. The provincial appointments for the year 1934-35 are: Mrs. J. M. Abbott, Erin, Convener of Education; Mrs. A. D. Whidden, Devlin, Health and Child Welfare; Mrs. W. W. Redden, Tamworth, Agriculture and Canadian Industries; Mrs. J. K. Kelly, Almonte, Home Economics; Mrs. P. R. Craven, New Liskeard, Canadianization; Mrs. W. C. Haggerty, Jr., Cherry Valley, Community Activities and Relief; Miss E. Appelle, Georgetown, Historical Research and Current Events; Miss Jean Ross, Lucan, Legislation; and Mrs. J. E. Houck, Chippewa, Peace Educa-

tion and International Relationships.

These provincial conveners head the standing committees. Each convention area has an area convener for each of the standing committees. This is also true of the districts.

Each branch may or may not organize every standing committee which is recognized provincially. Branches should organize the committees capable of giving good service in their community and then see that they function.

Many Institutes do not need all the standing committees. Do not feel it is good business to have an inactive committee on the records. Interest and need may shift from one committee to another.