

HOME and COUNTRY

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KENTUCKY HOMEMAKERS INTERESTED IN WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

Southern Neighbours Set Us Fine Example

Mrs. John Houck of Chippewa has returned from her visit to Kentucky where she spoke on Women's Institute work at district Homemaker's Conferences.

Mrs. Houck reports: "The purpose of the trip was threefold. First, it was a gesture of friendship from a neighbouring country, deeply appreciated and sincerely extended. Second, our friends in Kentucky wished more information concerning their neighbour in the north, particularly regarding our government, schools, climate and home life. Third, and most important, the Women's Institutes of Canada have been a pattern for rural women's organizations all over the world. The Homemakers' clubs of Kentucky wanted to hear about our work from someone who actually belonged to the Institutes.

Organization Plan

I travelled about 1,400 miles by car in Kentucky and attended five all-day district conventions, averaging in attendance about 350 women. The programme was so similar to our own that I might almost have thought that I was in a Women's Institute convention, with this possible exception; the women of Kentucky have gone much further than we have educationally but have attempted very little in the line of community service work, which is one of our strongest points.

The educational organization connected with this work consists of Miss Weldon, two assistants for east and west, and 28 County Home Demonstration Agents whose position is similar to that of our agricultural representative, women who do nothing else but educational homemaking work among their club members. The membership in the Home Makers' Clubs of the state is about nine or ten thousand women, but many areas are not covered at all by these clubs since they require a Home Demonstration Agent and some of the counties feel that they cannot afford such an outlay. Here we have another proof of the independence and real ability of our Women's Institute members. We are able to carry on with a fair amount of achievement without the help of a county worker.

Local Leaders Used

It will be interesting just now to Institute members to know that practically all of this educational work in Kentucky is done under the local leader method now being sponsored by the Department for our own work. Certainly, this method has proved most satisfactory to the women who have tried it and we are fortunate in having the opportunity to start this type of work after the experimental stage is past since we can well profit by the experience of our sisters to the south.

International Friendship

The greatest point of contact which we have with women is the desire on their part, as well as our own, to promote international friendship and harmony among the nations of the world. We would do well, possibly, to make an effort to follow the example of our Kentucky sisters in reaching out to other localities for contacts and ideas, particularly in view of the fact that the next meeting of the International Country-women of the World will be held so near us in New York state. Let us attempt to get away from a narrow community or provincial view of ourselves or work."

The Members of the Provincial Board of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario April 24, 1935



FIRST ROW, reading from left to right: 1, Mrs. A. Davis, Lakefield; 2, Mrs. D. Johnson, Matheson; 3, Mrs. J. E. Miller, Renfrew; 4, Mrs. D. B. Fraser, Port Arthur; 5, Mrs. O. Stewart, Harrowsmith; 6, Mrs. J. F. Allard, Sault Ste Marie.
SECOND ROW: 1, Mrs. W. B. Leatherdale, Coldwater; 2, Miss Bess McDermand, Toronto; 3, Mrs. R. B. Colloton, Lorne Park; 4, Hon. Duncan Marshall, Minister of Agriculture; 5, Mrs. A. E. Walker, Bartonville; 6, Mrs. H. M. Lee, Highgate; 7, Miss E. H. Bosley, Shelburne.
THIRD ROW: 1, Mrs. J. E. Houck, Chippewa; 2, Mrs. G. Campbell, Georgetown; 3, Mrs. A. T. McNeil, Woodbridge; 4, Mrs. A. George, Dorchester; 5, Mrs. A. E. Linnington, Paris; 6, Mrs. G. B. T. Lawrence, Barrie; 7, Mrs. J. Youngson, Watford; 8, Mrs. Frank Tanner, Vars; 9, Miss Sadie Russell, Rainy River; 10, Mrs. H. Murphy, Belleville; 11, Mrs. W. H. Demaine, Etwell.
Note: Mrs. T. J. McDowell, Milverton, of sub-division No. 15, was unavoidably absent.

INTERNATIONAL PEACE SYMBOLIZED BY LOVELY GARDEN

Women's Institutes Assist In Creating Development

"To promote peace among the nations and to serve as an example of the fact that the people of the different countries can live side by side in peace is the purpose of the International Peace Garden."

This great garden of 1800 acres extent stretches along the International Boundary in Southern Manitoba and North Dakota, one half on each side, on what is known as the Turtle Mountain plateau; the highest point of which is 2,700 feet above sea level. It is the highest point in the centre of North America and, to be precise, but forty miles from the exact geographic centre.

The garden is financed by public subscription and by Government aid. It is unique in that it is under the control of an international organization known as The International Peace Garden, Incorporated, it is thus a project of the people.

Endorsed by Women's Institutes

Many organizations have endorsed the Peace Garden and several have helped to make it possible. The first Women's Institute organization to actually assist in a practical way in the development of the area is the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada. Every province has subscribed to a fund to lay out a garden plot of one acre. Plans have been prepared and in this plot the provinces, nine in all, will be represented, clustered around the central Province of Ontario. This unique example of the desire to foster the cause of peace is the most beautiful expression possible, and will, undoubtedly, be emulated by other organizations.

Twenty Thousand Subscribers

Some 20,000 people have subscribed to the Peace Garden project. The lands were donated by the Manitoba Government in the name of His Majesty King George, and by the United States Government and the State of North Dakota during the years 1931-32. The area was dedicated on July 14, 1932, in the presence of 90,000 people. The Manitoba and the Dominion Governments will, this year, complete the roadway from the town of Boissevain, fifteen miles north of the International Boundary, to the garden area at the boundary. The United States and the North Dakota Governments have already completed the highway from the south of the boundary. The Canadian Government has already erected a Custom's Building and the United States will follow suit this year.

During 1934 the United States Government, through the aid of a C.C.C. Camp and the expenditure of around \$75,000, built a dam in the garden area and created a vast lake; erected five tourist camps; underbrushed and prepared for planting 300 acres; bored a well 365 feet deep and secured an ample flow of fine drinking water; and built 10 miles of roads and trails in the garden area. This year, 1935, the same government will spend \$30,000 for supplies, and has placed an all-year camp in the area. The government considers the development of the garden one of its four major landscape developments. There is reason to believe that the Canadian Government will shortly also make a grant of money for the development of the garden, and so take the hand of friendship proffered by the United States. What better thing could any government do?—(Mr. H. G. Moore, Supt.)

National Convention Reports Progress

The nationalization of Women's Institute home economics work, through the appointment of a committee comprising the superintendents of each Province, under the convenership of Miss Esther Thompson, Manitoba W. I. Superintendent, is the most important national project emanating from the recent biennial convention of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada, held in conjunction with that of the P.E.I. Institutes at Charlottetown.

Although Women's Institutes as a group of club women do a tremendous and varied community work, and are an important factor in harmonizing home and community life, they were founded on the idea of co-operation of homes and governments—the bettering of homes through extension education in home economics. This is still their greatest work. This is the idea that has won international recognition.

The majority of the provincial superintendents or directors are home economics graduates with experience that will enable this committee to formulate sound policies of benefit to all the provinces with the possibility of securing national recognition in the future.

Work for Peace

The president, Mrs. A. E. Walker, in her presidential address and the publicity secretary, Mrs. Elizabeth B. Price, in her report of the international conference of the Pan-Pacific Women's Association emphasized the importance of carrying on education for peace.

It found expression in resolutions urging the federal government to enact legislation for government control of the manufacture of armaments.

They will continue the work for the international peace garden which is situated on the international boundary line between Manitoba and North Dakota.

Highlights of Committee Work

From the health report arose a resolution to ask the Canadian Welfare

Council at Ottawa to publish a handbook on Home Nursing and First Aid similar to those of the blue book series, for free distribution. More study of mental hygiene was urged.

Portfolio contests on provincial industries, similar to those worked out by Nova Scotia, was commended to all provinces. Co-operation with Canadian Manufacturers' Association re performance labels and honest advertising was discussed.

A committee was appointed to complete arrangements for Canada's part in the forthcoming international conference of the Associated Country Women of the World which is to be held at Cornell University. Mrs. A. E. Walker, the president, was appointed official delegate. Arrangements are now being made by the Ontario W. I. Federation to have delegates attending this meeting visit Canada.

An Institute scrap book to keep up-to-date clippings on Dominion and Provincial laws was recommended by the National Legislation Convener.

Recognizing the obligation of homes to scientific physical, biological and mental investigations let the Women's Institutes do everything to urge upon governments to encourage research, rather than cut down grants for this purpose, was one of the highlights of the address given by Dr. F. W. Patterson, president of Acadia University.

Great regret was expressed at the retirement of Mrs. A. H. Rogers, Ft. Saskatchewan, recording secretary for the past 12 years. She was voted a life membership, the highest award for service given by the F.W.I.C.

The invitation extended by the Hon. Duncan Marshall, Ontario Minister of Agriculture, for the next biennial to be held in his province and probably at Toronto was accepted. Later the suggestion of holding it at the time of the Royal Winter Fair, in 1937, met with general approval. (Contributed by Elizabeth Bailey Price.)