

HOME AND COUNTRY

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

SUGGESTIONS FOR CONVEN-
TIONS

Mrs. R. B. Colloton, President of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, has been a participant and a keen observer of Women's Institute work in Ontario for many years. Her experience places her in a position to make constructive suggestions.

Mrs. Colloton writes, "Our convention gatherings are becoming more and more popular as is evidenced by the increased attendance and the interest displayed in the various features. Could we not perhaps make more use of this opportunity to discuss matters of interest to every rural community. For instance, would it not be wise to discuss the problem of noxious weeds and unsprayed fruit trees? The industrious farmer whose efforts to keep his fields clean is hampered by the neighbour who permits mustard, daisy, thistle, etc., to flourish unchecked, and is labouring under as heavy a handicap as the fruitgrower whose neighbour makes no effort to spray the few trees he keeps for his own use. How can we help spread respect for control of noxious weeds and insects?"

Slum clearance is prominently to the fore these days. Apart from the congestion, we have as deplorable slum conditions in the rural areas as in any city street. What can we do to eradicate these shacks and eyesores from our beautiful countryside and give those who dwell in them an incentive to better living conditions?

The Public Health Unit as a convention topic was not featured as prominently last year as previously but we know interest is still keen. How many members know that this system is now in operation in some of our eastern counties? Although, perhaps, too recently inaugurated for fair comparison to be made between it and former methods, yet reports from these counties would be welcomed by other convention areas.

What about the Canadian Radio Commission? Our legislators tell us that much larger sums from the public treasury or by special taxation will be necessary for its continuance and expansion than heretofore. Do we consider the expenditures already made justified by results? Are we in favour of further expenditures?

We would remind convention area officers to bear in mind when planning programmes that our organization is definitely non-sectarian and, therefore, that other than possibly the Lord's Prayer, devotional exercises are out of place. This, with the Ode, are fully adequate for the purpose and are acceptable to all creeds.

The question box is a popular feature. Make use of it to clear up matters and situations that are troublesome. Properly used this can be a very helpful feature. Branches might well use this method by preparing questions now on matters on which information or assistance is desired."

DISTRICT ANNUALS

Representatives from the Department and the Federation attended all district annual meetings this year with but one or two exceptions. Their primary object was to discuss the Co-operative Programme in Home Economics and the organization of Women's Institute work.

On the whole, the attendance was unusually large, reaching as high as 460 at one meeting, with a total attendance of approximately 7,000 persons. The majority of the meetings were well organized and worth while.

Tenure of Office—Some districts follow a definite ruling with regard to the term of occupancy of office, the district concerned setting the time period. The recommendation of the Provincial Board of the Federated Women's Institutes of a term of not more than six years in one office was favourably received on the whole.

Nearly all districts planned for a convener of the new committee on Peace Education and International Relationships. Many arranged for the functioning of a nominating committee for 1936, and the great majority appointed a programme committee to decide on the type of service the district wishes to obtain from the Department for the coming year. As time goes on, these district annuals will, undoubtedly, function as programme planning meetings as well as furnishing occasions for evaluating the work of the past year.

Loyalty to Organization—A definite pride in and loyalty to the Women's Institute movement was evident at all the annuals. Good co-operative spirit and keen interest in community enterprises was accompanied with a spirit of buoyancy, friendliness and enthusiasm.

Overcrowded Programmes — The programmes were varied and lengthy, interesting and timely. Many of them were much too crowded and the time was too short to cover the scheduled work acceptably and without weariness. Some districts presented branch reports, some summarized standing committee reports, others presented both branch and committee reports, in which overlapping of activities was unavoidable. Much time was consumed when both were presented without giving added information or suggestions, and left little opportunity for profitable discussion. The most acceptable reports emphasized achievements and offered suggestions for future progress. They were followed by helpful discussions.

Many of these annual meetings would be less wearying and productive of greater enthusiasm if reports as well as addresses were given a time limit. A marked tendency to over-emphasize the competitive feature was noted in some districts where prizes were given for exhibits, programme reports and other things, excellent in themselves if carried on in their place, but somewhat of a handicap on a district programme where time is limited.

Good methods of procedure were productive of decided improvement in the meetings. Bright, well-ventilated and attractive meeting places were a decided advantage. An occasional musical number and community singing helped to make long sessions enjoyable. The recognition of the talent of young women was noted as a progressive move. Segregation of voting delegates for the elections, and not too voluminous minutes, were other matters which received the approval

PROVINCIAL BOARD
HELD SPRING MEETING

Deliberations Solved Many
Provincial Problems

The spring session of the Provincial Board of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario was held in Toronto on April 23 and 24. The full membership of the Board was present, Mrs. J. Allard attending as a substitute for Mrs. S. H. Marshall who was absent due to illness.

It was regretted that the Adult Education Section of the O.E.A. was meeting at the same time as the Provincial Board as it was considered highly important that the Board should be represented at their discussion meetings. Miss E. Appelbe attended the adult education meetings.

A few of the items of business accomplished are as follows:

That the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario should give \$100.00 to the construction of the Peace Garden.

That an official invitation to visit Ontario should be sent to the delegates from other nations attending the conference of the Associated Countrywomen of the World to be held at Cornell, June, 1936.

That work on compiling a new song sheet be started. A committee was appointed to report on this at the November Board Meeting.

That the Board co-operate with the Department in a financial arrangement whereby a copy of "Home and Country" may be furnished to every Institute member with the paper being distributed by branch Institute secretaries.

That the film "Bug and Man" was of such quality that it might be shown at District Annuals.

That the Ontario Institutes invite the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada to be held in Ontario in 1937.

That it would be desirable for each convention area to have a publicity convener to contact the press and help make good news material available.

That it be strongly recommended that officers in branches, districts and convention areas should not hold one office for longer than a six-year period.

MICHIGAN HOMEMAKERS TO
HEAR MRS. COLLOTON ON
INSTITUTE WORK

This year a representative of the Ontario Women's Institutes has been invited to speak at the Annual Home Week held by the State College of Agriculture and Home Economics, Lansing, Michigan. This course offers educational advantages to practicing homemakers, and is largely attended by women from every part of the state.

Mrs. R. B. Colloton, Provincial President of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, will speak to Michigan on July 25 on Women's Institute work in Ontario.

(Continued from Column 2)
of Department and Federation representatives.

Wise Choice of Leaders—Good judgment was used in placing women of fact, ability and force, with pronounced qualities of leadership in the major offices in many districts. Leaders chosen were women of poise and judgment with broadness of vision which augurs well for the future of the work.

Outlook Promising — The outlook for the coming year is promising. The Co-operative Programme of the Department was generously supported and keen interest indicated. Local leader training schools are eagerly anticipated, a large number of short courses are being requested and definite district projects planned. Extension of the work to new centres continues and there is an outstanding advance noted in some districts which indicates a healthy organization and a desire for steady, wholesome progress in our ways of living.

MARY WRIGHT
ADVISES STUDY

Work for Good District
Programme

Mary Wright has been listening to the talk of a lot of Women's Institute branch and district officers lately. She says some of them understand how the district programme for the coming year should be determined while others are confused. As she chattered the other day a hidden recorder took the following verbatim notes.

Plans Important

"This business of having to co-operate in deciding the programme for the district is a matter where good judgment must be exercised. Everyone should feel their responsibility in helping to make the decision and then abide by the decision made even though they are in the minority. It simply follows the plan of modern government, being based on both democratic and co-operative principles. We all like to carry out plans that have a bit of our own making in them. We, who live in a district, know that situation much better than persons living outside and are in a position to help in determining the needs and interests of the Women's Institute members.

Available Help

"This programme to be determined by the district is a simple thing after all, for each district may have either a speaker service, or establish a training school in a certain subject for local leaders from each branch Institute. The Department can only promise to make one of these services available.

If a speaker service is desired, the district is expected to examine the announcement of the Co-operative Programme in Home Economics on pages 6, 7, 8 and 26, and select one subject. The speaker can not go to every Institute in the district; the number of visits allowed for each district is listed on pages 6, 7 and 8 of the announcement. The district also suggests the season of year when the speakers would be most welcome. Of course, if a district elects the speaker service they shouldn't think of it as just supplying an entertainment programme to the branches visited, but should think of it rather as an opportunity of getting acquainted with a subject with which they expect to do follow-up work or use it to prepare for an educational programme to be carried on in the near future.

"If the district chooses a programme to be carried on by the local leader basis, it also has to decide which project it will undertake for the coming year. All the available projects are described in the coloured section of the programme announcement. Remember, projects taught by local leader are not the same thing as short course schools.

Local Leader Privileges

"Two local leaders should be appointed by each Institute branch which is looking forward to strengthening its programme. The district chooses a central place where the local leaders may meet with an instructor from the Department. Usually, it is best to hold all-day meetings about one month apart. The programme announcement tells how many days are required for each project.

The local leader has a fine opportunity of gaining new knowledge and skills and is responsible for passing this on to the members of her branch. The Department will help her not only by contact with an instructor but will also furnish special materials.

Short Course Schools

Short course schools are not requested by the district, but by the branch Institute. The number of different types of short course schools are described in the announcement. Only a limited number are available to each district.

The requests for short course schools to be held from August, 1935, to July, 1936, will be considered and the travel schedule will be made out by the Department during this August.