

# HOME and COUNTRY

Published by  
The Ontario Women's Institutes at Toronto, Ontario

Volume 1

OCTOBER, 1935

Number 12

## INSTITUTES OF CANADA MEMBER OF ASSOCIATED COUNTRYWOMEN

### International Conference in Washington

The Federated Women's Institutes of Canada is one of the organizations affiliated with the Associated Country Women of the World, which will hold its fourth International Conference in Washington, U.S.A., next June.

The Third International Conference was held in Stockholm in June, 1933, when representatives from 34 rural women's organizations were present from 21 different countries. This and the previous conferences were called by a committee of the participating societies rather than by a recognized International Association. However, at the Stockholm Conference the societies decided to organize and take the name of "The Associated Country Women of the World". A simple constitution was adopted and provision made for financing the organization by contributions from the constituent organizations. The former plan of allowing each affiliated organization to determine the amount of its own fee was endorsed and the practice carried into the new organization.

### Inception of Movement

The first step in placing rural women's organizations on an international basis was taken by the Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair, President of the International Council of Women, when she acted on the authority of a resolution passed by the Executive Committee of that organization at Geneva in 1927.

Representatives of rural women's organizations were invited to hold a Conference in London in May, 1929, when the Executive of International Council of Women was in session. It was hoped that the International Council might provide a means of communication between the country women's organizations of the world. A small committee was formed to undertake the preparatory work, the active members of which were Lady Aberdeen, Countess Keyserlingk, Mrs. Alfred Watt, and Miss E. M. Zimmermann as Honorary Secretary.

This Conference in 1929 declared that some continued form of international connection should be established. A committee was appointed with the object of keeping in touch with all the organizations represented at the Conference, and it was empowered to keep a record of rural Women's Societies, to receive donations, to prepare and publish a report of the London Conference, to study the need and advisability of a future Conference, to plan a programme of work and to raise and hold funds.

### Second Conference

The report of this committee was approved by the second International Conference when representatives from 34 rural women's organizations from 28 different countries met. A new committee was elected under the name of "Liaison Committee of Rural Women's and Homemakers' Organizations". Under this committee the country women's organizations were lumped together on a contributory basis, rather than on set requirements of a formal affiliation. The membership was limited to societies consisting wholly or predominately of rural women. Contributing societies were entitled to appoint representatives to serve on the committee.

## Training School For Local Leaders



Local Leaders representing the Institutes of North Perth District met with Miss Edith Collins of the Women's Institute Branch, Department of Agriculture, on September 20 and October 18 to study the problems of buymanship related to clothing and household linens. These leaders will be in charge of instruction in buymanship in their own branches.

## District Programmes Start New Activities

This fall, twenty-six Women's Institute Districts have organized training schools for local leaders appointed from the branch Institutes. The leaders meet at a central place and work all day with the instructor from the department. The instructor teaches new skills, gives the leaders a supply of printed information, puts them in touch with authoritative references, and plans with them interesting ways of presenting the material to local Institute in order to make it most helpful to the individual homemaker.

### Variety of Interests

While the programme carried on by local leaders this fall does not cover all departments of home making, it, nevertheless, shows a wide variety of interests. Four districts are taking up Home Utilization of Wool. Eight districts are concentrating on the problems of buying. One of these districts had so many leaders that it had to be subdivided in three divisions.

The members of the Institutes profiting from the Buymanship programme are learning how to test for good durable silks, what to demand in woolen and worsted material, why some sheets wear longer than others, etc. In the work on making use of home grown wool the homemaker learns the secrets of good scouring and sorting. She may learn to card and spin, and prepare wool for many household uses. The study of quilt patterns and how to make them is a part of this course.

### Attractive Clothes

The local leaders from two districts are spending four whole days with Miss Edith Collins, the clothing instructor, in order to teach the members in their local Institute how to make a house dress and apron ensemble. The study of selecting printed materials to suit the personality of the wearer will be taken up as well as making the apron a part of the costume. Apron patterns will be

analyzed in regard to their comfort and practicability.

Two districts are going to put their time on the problems of caring for the family wardrobe.

### Making the Old New

The homes in some parts of Ontario have old pieces of walnut, maple, cherry and pine furniture well worth resurrecting and putting in good condition. In fact many of these are splendid in line and are much superior to more modern furniture. Refinishing of furniture is being carried on in six districts. The story will be told next spring of how many pieces of furniture are again adding beauty and comfort to Ontario homes.

One county is going to study how to arrange furniture and make a room most livable, by using just what is on hand.

### Appetizing Menus

How to make the family interested in the necessary two servings of vegetables a day has been the work carried on by local leaders in three districts. By all reports, the right handling and cooking of the vegetables has popularized them in many families.

### Speaker Service

Thirty districts have chosen to have a speaker visit a certain number of the branches in their district. Some of their programmes have been completed and some will not be until spring. The most popular subject has been the Care of Health.

### Five Day Short Courses

Approximately 150 branch Institutes will have sponsored a short course before April, 1936. Forty of these courses are in clothing, either the Study of the Commercial Pattern or Remodelling. Health Education and Meal Planning are the next in popularity. A few branches are taking up the new course on Hooked Rugs.

## NATIONAL COMMITTEES POINT OUT HIGHLIGHTS OF WORK

### Summarized Reports Advise Practical Functioning

Exchange of practical ideas for Institute work from coast to coast was one of the features of the convention of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada at Charlotte-town. Below is a brief summary of worthwhile objectives, that even the most remote branch might carry out:

#### Agriculture

Mrs. C. A. Good, Nietaux, N.S.  
(re-elected).

Beautify your homes and communities, without cost by organizing exchanges of perennials, shrubs, seedlings and cuttings—and by study and experimenting with natural plantings. Promote poultry, calf, potato and garden clubs among the children. Practise the "gentle art" of helping farmer husbands, who, after long days of work, are often too drugged with sleep to do their part in thinking out plans for home and community betterment. Experiment with growing new vegetables. Co-operate with experimental farms and governmental services for the more scientific methods in agriculture.

#### Canadianization

Mrs. W. H. T. Peake, Transcona, Man. (past convener).

Mrs. J. Brian Ashworth, Hull, Que. (new convener).

Study U. S. regulations re examinations required of new citizens in order to recommend desirable legislation for Canada. Encourage the gathering of historical reminiscences from the pioneers of district, as well as the preserving of landmarks. Plan an "All-Canadian" programme, featuring papers on great Canadians or history and traditions of the country. Get acquainted with newcomers in your district.

#### Education

Mrs. M. E. Noble, Hatzic, B.C. (past convener).

Mrs. Harley Dunham, Pettidiac, N.B. (new convener).

Establish connections with your provincial universities for extension services. Join the new movements for adult education.

#### Legislation

Mrs. G. Telford, Pelly, Sask. (re-elected).

Study existing legislation concerning women and children, proposed changes in the British North America Act, prison reform, and juvenile delinquency. Keep up-to-date with a legislation scrap book.

#### Canadian Industries

Miss M. V. Powell, Whitby, Ontario (past convener).

Mrs. H. H. Pitts, Nelson, B. C. (present convener).

Stimulate interest by having exhibits and featuring a home products week. Study performance labels, which give facts concerning grades, color fastness, fabric durability, also honest advertising.

#### Child Welfare and Public Health

Mrs. C. E. Petch, Hemmingford, Que. (past convener).

Mrs. Allison MacMillan, Fairview, P.E.I. (present convener).

Give all co-operation in the organization of local health clinics. Dis-

(Continued on page 3).

### SECRETARIES PLEASE NOTE

The secretary of the Institute is responsible for the distribution of "Home and Country" among the members.

The secretary should send to her district secretary early in January a report of meetings from September to December inclusive, on the form provided for this purpose.