

## HOME AND COUNTRY

Published quarterly by  
The Federated Women's Institutes  
of Ontario

and  
The Institutes Branch  
Department of Agriculture  
Ontario

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"HOME AND COUNTRY"

Parliament Buildings, Toronto.

This paper is distributed through the secretaries of Branch Women's Institutes to the Women's Institute members.

## EDITORIAL COMMENT

## RESOLUTIONS

The consideration of resolutions took up much time at every one of the 13 Women's Institute Conventions held in Ontario this fall. In some cases profitable discussions were carried on, but often valuable time was wasted in trying to discuss a resolution recommending a wishful circumstance entirely impossible to attain, unless a decree were issued. And our Canadian form of government does not provide for high authorities with the power of issuing decrees. It might be desirable for poultry farms to have a decree made "that eggs should never be less than 20 cents a dozen" but how is such a thing to be done in Canada? What can such a resolution passed by the Women's Institute do? Is it recommending that prices should be set for all commodities? Does not this resolution first demand a different philosophy of regulation than that at present held by the Canadian people? Why should such a resolution be offered to a Convention?

We might well discourage a long list of impracticable and futile resolutions, and spend our time considering measures where our own experience can be helpful in bringing about solutions. Would not the Women's Institutes be helpful if they concentrated on regulations concerning the accurate labelling of manufactured goods, and tried to get legislation passed to help the consumer know what she is buying? A resolution on this subject was passed by one of the Conventions, but the time for discussion was cut short, because of many insignificant resolutions being offered. Let's think about our resolutions and where they can be most effective.

Usually, the resolutions presented to the Government are initiated by a Women's Institute branch, and then cleared through the District Annual Meeting and Annual Convention of the area in which the branch is situated, and then by the Provincial Board of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario. Miss Jean Ross, provincial convener of Legislation has given some very good advice about the details of handling such matters.

"Conveners of Legislation, whether they belong to branch or district, should make sure that each resolution has attached to it the names of the mover and seconder. Otherwise, the resolution can not legally be presented. Half of those which have already been brought to my attention for this year, have had no signature attached and have had to be sent back for the same—a waste of time and postage.

Then, though it is a little too late for this, when and where resolutions are first presented, existing laws concerning the same should be learned and reviewed in the discussion. Very many resolutions ask for something that the law already provides. For instance, last year at one of the large conventions, we had a resolution asking that a law be passed prohibiting the use of adulterants in the manufacture of jams. Upon inquiry the Resolution Committee found the Pure Food Act takes care of this and so the convention was spared useless discussion.

This is why it is so important that all resolutions should be sent promptly to Conveners of Resolution Committees for Conventions. Only in this way may they be given the opportunity to search out the law covering the same, and withhold from discussion those resolutions that ask for something we already have but of the possession of which we are ignorant.

It is the duty of Resolution Committees to meet and decide what resolutions shall be withheld either for the reason already stated or because they are not feasible. Also, they should embody in one resolution, all resolutions requesting the same thing. Resolution Committees should also be on guard for such resolutions that express an alternative—those asking for 'this or that'. Such resolutions present two different points of view and cannot be put to one vote".

## ST. JOSEPH ANNUAL PRESENTED OUTSTANDING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Those who attended the District Annual Meeting in Kentvale on St. Joseph Island were impressed with the direct manner in which the Women's Institute members are coping with their local and individual health problems. They have organized and conducted three successful goitre clinics at which 413 cases were examined and tablets were provided through the schools for all children requiring treatment.

The Red Cross Hospital was the centre for tonsil clinics. Transportation was arranged in order that no child need be denied necessary treatment. The reduced cost for each individual placed his medical care within the reach of all.

A health and nursing school was conducted twice a week for six weeks at which 42 women and girls received nursing instructions at the local hospital. This course has had definite results in improved methods in first-aid treatment and follow-up work in dental, chest and well-baby clinics.

An outstanding feature of this meeting was a report of the club activities of the junior members of one branch. Their seven members appeared as a group wearing very attractive dresses which they had made themselves. The same pattern was used for each but interest and variety were made possible by using different materials and cleverly adapting a variety of decorative finishes. Each member of this club had made a quilt during the year and had attended the nursing school during the six weeks course and as follow-up work arranged with a local dentist for a dental clinic at which each had her teeth examined and the necessary dental treatment given at a very nominal cost. (Contributed by Miss E. Collins).

## HISTORICAL RESEARCH SHOULD BE GIVEN ATTENTION

## Provincial Convener Outlines Methods

Every year new branches seek information as to how to proceed in Historical Research work.

The primary concern of this committee is with the recording of events in Ontario from the first settlement down to the present. The recording of important local events should take care of that which in the future will be history. Remember that romance may lie at your own door step.

Townships existed as townships from the time of the first surveys. Therefore, the township is the logical unit with which to begin. Moreover, the township is the least changed geographical unit in the province. Locations of land are given by lot and concession in the township. Write to the Department of Interior, Ottawa, for a map of your township.

## Township History

When compiling a township's history it is well to relate a part of it to the surveys. State the name and the origin of the name, the area, boundaries, dates of surveys, names of surveyors, roads old and new, and place and street names. Note such physical changes as the draining of marshes, when and where streams have altered their courses or almost disappeared. State when high places in roads have been made low and when low places have been made high.

## Early Settlers

Early settlers were first given location tickets assigning acreage in certain townships. The settler was responsible for certain settlement duties, and then received a deed of patent.

When compiling the history of this, secure the dates of location and patents. If the previous occupation of the settler can be found it helps to understand how he and his family adjusted themselves to new circumstances. If possible, record a description and the racial origin of the patentees, and show the reason for the settler's immigration.

Accurate information can be obtained from petitions sent to the Crown requesting land as a reward for services in the Army, Navy, etc. These petitions are in the Ottawa Archives. Reference to them may be found in the land book (photostat) in the Ontario Archives. Transfers of land should be shown in the township's history.

In many townships there have been marked increases and decreases in population at certain times. This should be recorded with the reasons, together with accurate information on the growth and decline of towns and villages and vanished centres.

The outstanding events in township government should be brought together.

## Trace Developments

Accurate information on the kind of agricultural implements which were used and when improvements were initiated, and by whom, should be a part of the history. This data should be substantiated by actual evidence, such as a letter telling about the purchase of one of the first reapers.

The changes of emphasis on the types of commodities produced should be shown. When and where industries developed should be included.

Communications furnish a great deal of light on the development of the section—roads, waterways, railways, telephones and rural delivery of mail.

The history of churches, schools, societies, the press and historic houses should be noted in the township's history, together with the outstanding contributions to agriculture, literature, etc., made by persons born in the district.

## MICHIGAN CONFERENCE HEARD REPORT ON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

## Homemakers Gather From All Parts of State

Mrs. R. B. Colloton, President of the Provincial Board of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, spoke on the work of Women's Institutes of Ontario at the Annual Home Week, held at the State College of Agriculture and Home Economics, Lansing, Michigan. The programme of this Home Week is an endeavor to bring homemakers up-to-date training on the problems connected with keeping a house, and developing happy and healthful family life.

Mrs. Colloton reports: About 650 rural women taxed to its capacity the accommodation afforded by the many and handsome buildings of the Michigan State Agricultural College, for which the exceptionally beautiful grounds and campus provide such a wonderful setting.

It was impossible to chat with these women and attend their sessions without realizing the value of the local leader system which is now being initiated in Ontario, but which has been followed there for some years, and I endorse Mrs. Houck's opinion expressed in connection with her Kentucky visit, that educationally they have carried the study and practice of Home Economics further than we have in Ontario.

They were greatly interested in hearing of our community activities as up to the present this type of work has had little place on their programme. Many women expressed the opinion that our example might well be followed.

Up to the present the State has had no affiliation with the Associated Country Women of the World and many of the women did not know of its existence. The gathering was keenly interested in its possibilities and the desire to affiliate was freely expressed.

Canada's plot in the Peace Garden was also productive of keen interest as the first women's project in connection with this interesting international undertaking.

The abounding hospitality, the keen and affectionate interest in Canada and things Canadian, the cordial receptiveness to new suggestions, and the readiness to give theirs in return, left one wishing that such interchange could be more frequent and the hope was kindled that some of our Convention Committees might keep in mind the idea of extending to some of our co-workers in the United States an invitation to tell us about the work across the line, and carry it out at an early date.

(Continued from col. 3.)

## Source of Materials

Look for the facts concerning your township in the county record offices. Investigate the minutes of the meetings of the township's councils. Become acquainted with the records at the Court House.

An examination of the files of local newspapers will bring to light evidence of important events.

Individuals in the townships may have collections of materials helpful in telling the story of the early history of the section.

Look over the church and school records and registers.

Inscriptions on tomb stones will sometimes give you the accurate date you are seeking.

Old photographs are invaluable. In many places some of the early settlers are still living while in others the descendants may have family records, useful in compiling the history of the section.

Be accurate, send copies of all original research stories to the provincial convener and keep duplicates in the county where they belong. (Contributed by Elizabeth Appelbe).