

News Flashes From the Branches

MARY WRIGHT CONTINUES TO GIVE POINTERS

Mary Wright bustled into the Editor's Office the other day, without a new ribbon on her last winter's hat. She hasn't had time to do a thing for herself, but she says before Christmas she is going to have a new house dress.

While her husband has been recovering from an operation she has been busy managing the farm and getting her brother's boy, Donald, off to his freshman year at the Agricultural College. In spite of all this, she hasn't missed an Institute meeting of her branch and has also attended many others in her district.

"Do you know," said Mary, "it is not understanding the details of the organization that makes trouble for many officers. One of my best friends said she got a lot out of my outline of the responsibilities of branch Institute officers in the April issue of 'Home and Country', but she could not always remember it. Imagine! I told her to cut it out and paste it in the back of the branch minute book. And by her conversation I know she didn't understand the difference between the Board of Directors and the Executive."

Mary pulled her bag from under her arm, and with the release of pressure it popped open as quickly as if it were filled with springs. Out dropped many bunches of materials and papers.

"Oh, that is some of my material for our work on Buymanship. I am a local leader you know," explained Mary. She selected one of the papers.

"Now this," said she, "is my definition of the function of Board of Directors and Executive Committee. I should like to have my friend Agnes read it, and I hope she pastes it in the minute book, along with the excerpts from the April 'Home and Country'."

These are Mary's notes:

Executive Committee

"The Executive Committee is made up of the President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary-Treasurer, District Director and one other director. In case the branch has an Honorary President, she also is a member of the Executive. At the time of the appointment of the honorary officer, the branch determines whether she has a vote or not.

The Executive Committee plans details of matters for which no special Committee has been appointed. It acts in cases of emergency when an immediate decision is required. It authorizes special expenditures by the secretary-treasurer when such procedure is necessary. In some of the larger Institutes where there is a good deal of business, the executive meets regularly for a half-hour before the regular meeting of the branch. The committee goes over all the correspondence received by the Secretary-Treasurer and decides on the unimportant communications which do not need the attention of the membership.

It depends on the decision of the branch Institute whether this latter function should be the responsibility of the Executive or Board of Directors.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors consists of the President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary-Treasurer, one District Director and three other directors with an additional director for each 25 members over the total membership of 50. It has power to add to its members. Some of the Institute Branches have placed the conveners of standing committees on the Board and it has worked out very well.

A few Institutes have the custom of having the past President act as Honorary President. At the time of such an appointment they decide whether such an officer has a vote on the Board or not.

Port Colborne, Welland Co.—Has made possible a Tuberculosis Clinic by forming a committee to sell Christmas seals to assist in meeting the salary of the itinerate county nurse for tubercular work. This branch also held an afternoon tea at the beginning of the school term for teachers of public and high schools, in order that the teachers and parents might become acquainted.

Fort Erie, Welland Co.—Keeps a "Current Event" scrap book with the object of preserving valuable records of important local events.

New Hamburg, Waterloo Co.—Has studied the lives and works of the great composers of music with emphasis this year on Mozart, Liszt, Bach. Selections from their work were played.

Pelham, Welland Co.—Held a "Carpet Rug" social where balls of rags for rug-making were made. The rug when completed will be donated to a bazaar.

Coboconk, Victoria Co.—Is paying \$120.00 for musical instruction in three rooms of their public school and obtaining excellent results. They also supply First Aid Kits and toilet requisites to the school.

Fenelon Falls, Victoria Co.—Had a paper on "Emergencies" by a R. N. who gave information on the treatments for hemorrhages, burns, scalds, fainting, bleedings, and other home emergencies.

Norland, Victoria Co.—Is only 5 years old and has a small membership, but every member is always ready to prepare and present a paper. The spirit of friendship has spread throughout three school sections.

Montrose, Welland Co.—Devoted a meeting to a "Hobby Contest". The contestants were the conveners of standing committees and their exhibits pertained to their special committee interest. The exhibits were judged on attractiveness and educational value.

Burnaby, Welland Co.—Gave pleasure to a "shut in" member by a card shower.

Powles Corners, Victoria Co.—Had an illustrated address on Art given by one of their girls who had been a student at the College of Art.

Scotland, Brant Co.—Called one meeting a "Musical"; Roll Call was answered by "My Favorite Song". An address was given on Folk Songs of different countries, and another on "Hymns and their History". This was followed by group singing.

Cookstown, Simcoe Co.—Sponsors recreation for all classes and ages. A community Hallowe'en party and concert has been an annual event for several years and enjoyed by both old and young—outstanding costumes, games and contests are featured.

New Dundee, Waterloo Co.—Held a flower show through the united effort of senior and junior Institutes. The flowers were judged and prizes awarded to exhibitors from local and surrounding communities. Luncheon was served and a contribution placed in the tea cup helped the finances of the branch.

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The Branch President may call a meeting of the Board at any time she has a good reason.

Matters of business which could take up too much time at a regular meeting of the branch, should be taken care of by the Board of Directors.

Correspondence

"I sometimes wonder," said Mary, "if the provincial seal on the envelope directed to an Institute secretary means that it is just tiresome business again and may be put away. Of course, the letters from the Department are rather impersonal. But that doesn't mean they shouldn't have attention. Generally, they should be read at the regular Institute meeting if the branch is to keep up-to-date."

Just what would we do without Mary Wright?

Dorchester, Middlesex Co.—Sponsors musical instruction in the school and assists in financing a choral class in the community. Better music in local church choirs and greater appreciation of good music have resulted.

Smithville, Lincoln Co.—Put on an "Oyster Supper" and programme by local talent to provide funds for the re-opening and maintaining the local Public Library.

Corunna, Lambton Co.—Included in one of their programmes a paper on the "White Trillium" the floral emblem of Ontario, and a talk by a landscape gardener about his work.

Moore Centre, Lambton Co.—Held a banquet in the beginning of the year and secured some new members.

Providence, Lambton Co.—Debated the subject, "Resolved that the Woman Who Takes Active Part in Community Life is Happier than the One Who Does Not".

Port Lambton, Lambton Co.—Subscribes for the "Reader's Digest", and allows each member to read it in turn.

Wilkesport, Lambton Co.—Had a roll call with each member donating her best quilt pattern.

Varency, Haldimand Co.—Appointed a Current Events Committee to report at each monthly meeting.

Cayuga, Haldimand Co.—Promoted interest in music by purchasing a piano for the public school and placing a piano in the Council Chamber for use at monthly meetings.

Bethel, Haldimand Co.—Gives two books as prizes to the school each term and has already contributed thirty volumes to the school.

South Neebing, Thunder Bay.—Cared for a family of five small children while both father and mother were ill in the hospital.

Killarney, Manitoulin Island.—Gave an afternoon of household service to members in need of help. Paper hanging and remodelling of clothing were among the services given.

South Bay Mouth, Manitoulin Island.—Gave substantial and practical help to a crippled child by providing hospital and X ray care.

Big Lake, Manitoulin Island.—Had the topic, "Who's Who in Ontario and Why", and aroused such enthusiasm that additional books were purchased for the Institute Library.

Adamsville, Bruce Co.—Asked the co-operation of the men of the section, and held a "Community Bee" to improve the school grounds. The teacher of this school has introduced the "Hot Lunch" and is receiving assistance from this newly organized Institute branch.

Warton, Bruce Co.—Is doing special work in the school, by supplying necessary books, clothing and glasses for needy children, and milk for the undernourished.

Hepworth, Bruce Co.—Has aroused the community to desirable beautification work. Citizens have responded by fixing up their gardens and improving the appearance of the homes generally. This branch is also developing a memorial park with tennis court and a bowling green.

Hope Bay and Hopeness, Bruce Co.—Keeps the school supplied with towels, soap and other toilet requirements.

Tobermory, Bruce Co.—Is putting on a "Made-in-Canada" bazaar with the co-operation of some of the Canadian Manufacturers. The proceeds will be used to help maintain the services of the local doctor.

Lindsay, Bruce Co.—This branch contacts two school sections, two community halls and two churches. It furnishes toilet requisites for both schools and alternate wholesome entertainments in the halls. In addition to this two incurable invalid boys are its continuous charge.

Morpeth, Kent Co.—Obtained the consent of the trustees to have music taught in the schools of the district; then after securing the instructor

became responsible for the greater part of the expense involved. Each school receives one hour instruction each week.

Blount, Dufferin Co.—Was financially responsible for re-decorating the interior of the Continuation School in Mono Mills.

Hereward, Dufferin Co.—Utilized the services of a dentist, and had an address on the care of the teeth.

Shelburne, Dufferin Co.—Assumes the responsibility of entertainments on the nights of their local Fall Fair, receiving 50 per cent. of the proceeds.

The Maples, Dufferin Co.—Received generous response to the roll call which took the form of "relief supplies".

Chesterville, Dundas Co.—Is responsible for the management of the Public Library. This branch has also provided glasses for needy cases, milk for under-nourished children and a cot for a sick child.

Mount Pleasant, Durham Co.—Avails itself of the Travelling Library service from the Department of Education each year.

Cavan, Durham Co.—Invited the school boards, inspector, agricultural representative to a public meeting, to discuss the introduction of musical education in the schools of the township. Then a competent instructor was engaged. A choral class has been formed recently and musical education is established in the township.

Bowmanville, Durham Co.—Studied "Birds" and "Trees" at the regular meetings by having an address on each of these topics, with a display of twenty-seven species of Canadian trees. A contest in naming these species was a feature of the programme.

Victoria, Durham Co.—Featured a paper on "Protecting Contacts in Tubercular Cases".

Nestleton, Durham Co.—Is starting a library and has on hand about one hundred volumes.

Luton, Elgin Co.—Featured a display of quilts, quilt blocks and patterns, and discussed the merits of their designs and colours.

North Yarmouth, Elgin Co.—Had an illustrated address on "Planning and Planting the Perennial Border".

Port Stanley, Elgin Co.—Encourages clean sports by co-operating with the local Base Ball Club.

South Yarmouth, Elgin Co.—Had a special programme when every grandmother took part. "The Characteristics and Heritage of our Grandmothers" was the title of the address given.

Comber, Essex Co.—Had motion pictures from the Ontario Department of Games and Fisheries, at an open social evening when the men were present.

South Woodlee, Essex Co.—Has been assured by the Township Council that they will assume all financial responsibility in connection with diphtheria toxoid clinic for all children in the township. This work may be extended to two other townships.

Golden Valley, Parry Sound.—Arranges a Christmas treat and concert, providing a small gift for each child up to 5 years of age. The proceeds of the concert are shared with the school to purchase books, pictures and games.

Millbank, Perth Co.—Raised \$46.00 by an autograph quilt. The money was donated to the up-keep of the local cemetery. The proceeds from a "play" provided assistance for Library Board and hospital work.

Avon, Perth Co.—Had the school inspector lead the discussion following the topic "Agriculture as taught in the Public School".

Gad's Hill, Perth Co.—Put on a publicity programme when Canadian Magazines were exhibited.

Minitaki, Kenora District.—States "The best results of Institute work in this branch have been getting the women out to meet other women who rarely left their homes before. The programmes centre on health and feeding the family".