

HOME AND COUNTRY

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

CONGRATULATIONS

To Miss Jean Ross, Chairman of the Committee on Resolutions for the London Convention, for the capable way of handling the resolutions submitted to the convention. Miss Ross carefully investigated the demands of each resolution. In some cases she found the request was already taken care of by legislation and in others it was impractical. She presented all the submitted resolutions on the first day of the convention and distributed mimeographed copies. When the resolutions were discussed she gave the reason why she did not move the adoption of certain ones but allowed time for the sponsors to move the adoption if they did not accept her reasons. This procedure avoided wasting time in discussing impractical and futile resolutions and made more intelligent consideration of important questions possible.

To Mrs. J. K. Kelly, Chairman of the Ottawa Convention, for her way of summarizing the discussion at the close of each session of the convention. She crystallized the important points and conclusions so clearly that the least analytical of delegates could not miss recognizing helpful advice for her branch Institute.

To the members of the Junior Women's Institutes and Homemaking Clubs who demonstrated at the Women's Institute conventions this fall. Many of these team demonstrations were given with such a perfection of technique and detail that they should have been preserved by the films of a moving-picture camera. Experienced women wished they had had, in their girlhood, the skills, knowledge and good judgment these girls have acquired in their club work.

To the Belleville Convention for the programme of the supper meeting. Each district president gave the slogan her district had chosen for the year and illuminated it with a short explanation. The districts all became better acquainted with each other.

To the Wiarion Convention for the free and spontaneous way problems were discussed at the round table conference and throughout all the sessions of the convention.

To the Kingston, Port Arthur and Fort William Conventions for the general discussion which followed each report of a standing committee.

To the Toronto and Monteith Conventions for giving special prominence to Education and Better Schools. The local school inspector in Monteith convinced the parents of the need of their interest in the schools. In Toronto, problems of the rural school were discussed by the Deputy Minister of Education, and Adult Education was considered by Dr. Corbett of the Canadian Association for Adult Education.

To the conventions of Algoma and St. Joseph's Island and Manitoulin Island for organizing their programmes to suit their own conditions and for the large attendance at all their sessions.

To the Barrie Convention which emphasized Historical Research and Mental Hygiene. Dr. Currelly, Director of the Royal Ontario Museum, discussed the type of museum work helpful to preserve valuable records. Mr. D. Williams, president of the Ontario Historical Society, suggested how to assemble and catalogue articles. Dr. Horne urged a greater spread of information concerning mental health.

To Mrs. Harvey Harris, Chairman of the Toronto Convention, for key noting in her chairman's address the theme of the convention and the prominent interests of rural women.

To Mrs. William Elliott, president of the London Convention, for graciously presiding at all sessions. With her intimate knowledge concerning the programme, she was ready to make instant adjustments and keep order with little effort.

To the committee in charge of the display of antiques at the Wiarion Convention for organizing an educational exhibit showing the possessions of early settlers of the locality.

To the programme committee of the Ottawa Convention for planning a session when members occupied in profitable agricultural enterprises had an opportunity to discuss their problems and successes.

SPEAKERS AT CONVENTIONS
BROADEN INTERESTS
OF MEMBERS

Speakers selected by the convention programme committees were well prepared to contribute to the dominant themes of the conventions. However, this specialization on certain interests and activities on the part of each convention did not mean that a broad field of interests was not touched by the convention programme throughout the province in 1936.

The following prominent speakers stimulated thought at one or more conventions:

Dr. Florence Dunlop, Psychologist with the Ottawa Board of Education, gave her listeners a better understanding of the individual needs of students and what should be expected from a good educational system. Dr. Duncan McArthur, Deputy Minister of Education, discussed the problems of administering the rural school. Mr. E. A. Corbett, Director of the Canadian Association, awakened interest to deepen the knowledge and widen the mental capacities of adults. Judge W. S. Mott of the Family Court, Toronto, brought new light on the psychological causes of domestic troubles. A number of prominent school inspectors discussed present day school problems.

Dr. Currelly, Director of the Royal Ontario Museum, showed the value of the study of the culture of earlier times. Mr. D. Williams, President of the Ontario Historical Society, commended recording historical source material in an orderly way.

Dr. Horne of the Orillia Hospital urged clinics and the spread of in-

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1937 Standing Committee Conveners Appointed
By Provincial Board

At the annual meeting of the provincial board of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario held on November 25 and 26 at Toronto, two new provincial conveners for standing committees were appointed. The standing committees and their provincial conveners are as follows:

Education—Mrs. Lloyd Wilson, Scotland, is a member of the provincial board. She has been president of her district and convener of Education for the Hamilton convention area. She has also been president of her local Institute.

Health and Child Welfare—Mrs. F. J. Nickle, Eldorado, is the convener of Health and Child Welfare for the Belleville convention area. She is a graduate of Macdonald Institute, Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, and is a young woman of courage and initiative.

Agriculture and Canadian Industries—Mrs. W. W. Redden, Tamworth, is the convener of this committee in the Kingston convention area. She is interested in the subject of this committee and her experience makes her advice valuable.

Home Economics—Mrs. J. K. Kelly, Almonte, is a former member of the provincial board. She retired this year as chairman of the Ottawa convention area, in which position she was responsible for initiating a fine organization.

Canadianization—Mrs. C. P. Craven, M.B.E., New Liskeard, received recognition from His Majesty for her fine service to her community. She has been an officer of the local Institute for many years.

Community Activities and Relief—Mrs. E. N. Hewitt, R.R. No. 1, Hawkestone, has been prominent in the district work of the Women's Institute for a number of years. She has a good understanding of philanthropic work and the promotion of community enterprises.

Historical Research and Current Events—Miss E. Appelbe, Georgetown, has been successful in securing interest in local historical research and has developed sound procedures of work. She was in charge of this work for the Toronto convention area until the last convention.

Legislation and Resolutions—Mrs. R. B. Colloton, Lorne Park, has been president of the provincial board and in that capacity she became well experienced in the study of legislation related to Women's Institute activities.

Peace Education and International Relationships—Mrs. J. E. Houck, Chippawa, is a former efficient member of the provincial board. In the past two years she has been most successful in guiding the programme of this committee.

MARY WRIGHT BELIEVES
GROUP DISCUSSIONS ARE
DESIRABLE

All fall Mary Wright has been looking forward to having a chat with her nephew Donald and was sorry that the Agricultural College did not have more holidays to allow him a day at home once in a while. Mary with her active mind and her enjoyment in doing things loved to talk to her ambitious young nephew. Her husband, of course, was one of the best of men but he was slow in getting an idea and discussions with him lacked the quick challenge and continuity that Donald could contribute.

Evidently, Donald enjoyed his Aunt Mary, too. He was proud of her eagerness for progress, even though she did sometimes demand a perfection of detail that he did not think was important.

Finally, Donald was able to spend a week-end at home and he spent a good share of his time at his Aunt Mary's helping, as well as hindering, in her preparations for Christmas.

Mary patiently listened to long eulogies of Donald's girl friend but paid back in good measure by releasing her feelings and ambitions for the Institute.

"One of our great difficulties", said Mary, "is to secure active participation on the part of all our members at a meeting. Somehow, only a few of us express our opinions."

"Well, that is too bad", replied Donald. "In our course in Rural Education our professor keeps stressing the importance of group thinking. He says life will have more meaning when decisions are made by sharing opinions and agreeing on the facts. If a group is dominated, the individuals in the group do not have the opportunity to develop. It is the person who does the thinking, who faces the problems, who makes the plans, who alone achieves both growth and happiness. Practice of too much leadership rewards the leaders only. The leaders grow and the individuals in the group decline. Now you see what your Institute must provide if it is to be an effective instrument of development in the community, Aunt Mary."

"Why, Donald", exclaimed his Aunt Mary, "I really believe you are learning something at College."

Donald looked at her quickly but discovered she was serious and was encouraging him to continue.

"If you wish to find out what your

Institute wishes to do about a problem, at least a majority of the individual members should pool their ideas. This stimulates and modifies the thought of each member. Their ideas and desires are moulded by the group so that corporate action is possible. Group discussion is not an argument or debate. People should come with an open mind and not in the spirit of contest. In the Institute programme, I presume, some action will follow the policies which are agreed upon by the group. For the practical success of your work the executive direction will have to fall upon a few individuals. In other words, your group of 40 Institute members may decide to have a community Christmas tree, but only four or five members will be delegated to decorate it."

"It sounds simple, in your words", retaliated Aunt Mary, "but you just try to get 'corporate action' with 40 women where most of them do not express their thoughts until they go home."

"I know it, Aunt Mary", replied Donald. "Not all groups are co-operative or creative. To think well has to be learned; this is true of groups. And a good leader or chairman is necessary if a situation is created where constructive discussion may go on. This leader should control the procedure rather than dictate the conclusions of the discussion."

"Yes", commended Aunt Mary, "and between those two things there is all the difference in the world."

Both of them were quiet for a few minutes, but the speed of Mary's knitting needles raced up before she continued.

"You know at our Institute meetings we are often not ready for a motion. At such times I think it would be better for the president to define clearly the problem facing the Institute and say that time will be taken to discuss it informally at the present meeting. This should bring to light all the important factors of the situation. This would also be good procedure after a report is given."

"I am glad you said 'informally', Aunt Mary", commented Donald. "I shouldn't wonder but you might have some of your best discussions at your informal meetings when the members all sit around and can look at each other. The group shouldn't be too large. Have you ever thought of dividing your membership into

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