

HOME AND COUNTRY

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"HOME AND COUNTRY"

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

EDITORIAL COMMENT

DISTRICT ANNUALS

No Women's Institute meeting is of more interest than the well established district annual. In many districts this meeting has been an annual event for more than 30 years. It is as much a part of the life of the county as the Agricultural Fair or the County Council meeting. It has a distinctive service that it alone can give.

Women from various communities in the district have the opportunity of getting acquainted with each other, of finding out about the privileges and limitations of other communities and of exchanging ideas and objectives. It is only with the opportunity of comparison that one can see one's own situation in a true light and make constructive plans for progress in the future.

The reports given at the district annual should not only review the community activities and the educational programmes of the branches but should evaluate them in order that future programme plans may profit from past experience.

Miscellaneous and unrelated addresses injected into the district annual programme distract its main purposes and destroy the influence it might have in helping the branches develop better programmes. Only tentative plans for the branch programme for the ensuing year should be made before the district annual meeting. After the district annual, the branches are in a position to complete plans for their programme.

One of the important items of business on the agenda of the district annual is that of deciding on the type of service the district wishes to receive from the Women's Institute Branch of the Department of Agriculture for the coming year. Each branch should inform its delegates in regard to the kind of service it would like to see carried on in the district for the coming year. Each delegate should be informed of second and third choices of her branch and if these choices should prove to be in the minority when the decision is made at the district annual, the delegate

should be empowered to recognize the authority of the majority.

The district has the privilege of obtaining a speaker service or establishing a training school for local leaders. In the case of the speaker service, the district must decide on the subject they wish to have introduced. If a training school for local leaders is chosen, the district must decide on the project they wish to develop. All this work is outlined in the Co-operative Programme in Home Economics.

Each branch may profit from the district programme and in addition it may apply for a five day short course. On account of lack of funds, a short course can not be given to every Institute each year. Up to the present time applications have not been received from more than one-tenth of the branches and it has been possible to schedule all the short course requested. According to the instructions circulated for the last two years, requests for short course must be sent to the Women's Institute Branch of the Department of Agriculture at the beginning of the programme year which is July 1.

FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY

This February marks the fortieth anniversary of the organization of the Women's Institutes of Ontario and the birthday honours go to the Stoney Creek Women's Institute Branch. In forty years, the Women's Institutes have grown from one to 1,344 branches and have widened the scope of their activities to embrace improvements in almost every phase of community and home life.

The Stoney Creek Women's Institute is planning a banquet in February to celebrate its birthday. The programme will sketch the significant happenings which have taken place during its life time. The most prominent sketch can not help but be that first meeting of February 19, 1897, when, with the leadership of Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless and Mr. Erland Lee, the society was organized with the object of providing a means for farm and village women to meet regularly to discuss problems and acquire information concerning their responsibilities as homemakers and citizens. Reports of activities will bring to mind the splendid contribution the Institute has made to its local community. But the most important accomplishment which will be cited, is that of the influence this first Institute has had throughout Canada and Ontario in particular. With its example of courage and success thousands of other communities have organized their women power into units of effort which have made a better rural Canada.

It is with pride and thankfulness that "Home and Country" takes this opportunity of congratulating Stoney Creek Branch on reaching the maturity of forty years.

Provincial Convener of Legislation Committee Recommends Study of Civics

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much ground a branch convener can cover on any one phase of a subject in even five minutes, with interest and profit to all. In addition, this system of covering all of one subject before passing on to another is much more likely to bring forth a well-considered type of recommendation where change in existing legislation or necessity for new legislation appears to be desirable."

Commendation is given to the practice followed by one branch whose convener follows closely the proceedings of both provincial and dominion legislatures, and reports to the branch all items of interest. The necessity of keeping this practice free from partisan bias is stressed.

The following pertinent questions are quoted from one report.

"Do you know the rating allotted to your local public school by the Inspector?"

Do you know what business was transacted at your last annual school meeting? Were you there?

Provincial Board Considered Administrative Problems

The annual meeting of the provincial board of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario was held in Toronto on November 24 and 25, with the president, Mrs. T. J. McDowell, in the chair at all sessions and all the members of the board in attendance.

As usual the greater part of the time was taken up by making decisions concerning the many details of the administration of the Federation and by discussing problems connected with both old and new activities.

Items of Business

The board covered other work along with the following items of business:

A contribution of \$12.00 was sent for the upkeep of Ontario's share of the International Peace Garden situated in Manitoba and North Dakota.

In 1937, the convention will be expected to purchase their own song sheets. These may be obtained from Mrs. W. B. Leatherdale, Coldwater, for one-half cent each.

A sum of \$50.00 was voted to take care of the transportation of relief supplies sent from southern Institutes to Institutes in newly settled parts of northern Ontario. Special comment was made on the generosity of the Barrie Convention in their gift of \$50.00 to the Putnam Memorial Fund, a part of which has been spent for shoes for school children in the north.

The board decided not to carry a supply of green and white pins of the Associated Country Women of the World. Any individual wishing to obtain this pin should order direct from 30 Baker St., London W. 1, England. The price is 25c.

The board felt it was not in a position to advise the executive of the Associated Country Women of the World in regard to use of the funds collected at the biennial Conference in Washington.

The board was pleased to recognize the election of Miss Grace Frysinger of Washington, D.C., as representative of the American continent on the executive of the Associated Country Women of the World, Her Excellency The Lady Tweedsmuir has graciously consented to be the honorary vice-president representing United States and Canada.

The board passed a vote of thanks expressing grateful appreciation to the Ontario committee on entertainment for the A. C. W. W.

In light of all the reports which were reviewed, the board felt that it is not wise for an Institute branch to undertake pieces of work requiring heavy financial responsibility, especially if the enterprise is one which should be supported by the municipality.

The advisability of carrying on competitions as a part of a district annual programme was discussed and it was decided that they have little value if purposeful preparation and related educational activities have not been carried on previously.

The board recommended that the question of uniting south and north Waterloo be considered at the next district annuals of the two districts.

The board felt that the residents of rural Ontario should be grateful for the system of travelling libraries provided by the Libraries Branch, Department of Education, Parliament Buildings, Toronto. The members of the board all felt their responsibility in encouraging Institute branches to secure this library for their community.

Recognition was made of the fact that Mrs. Leatherdale, provincial secretary, is in charge of publicity and should be considered as Publicity Convener.

Miss McDermand commended the Senior Women's Institutes for the assistance Institute districts and branches have given to Junior Institutes and girls' clubs.

INSTITUTE MEMBERS
LEARN TO MAKE
USEFUL WOOLEN
ARTICLES

During the programme year of 1936-37, 48 branches have sent local leaders to the district training schools in Home Utilization of Wool held at Lion's Head, Colpoys Bay, Teeswater, Bloomfield and New Liskeard. The leaders met with the instructor, Miss Edith Hopkins of the Women's Institute Branch, Department of Agriculture, for one day in each of four successive months. They started the work in their own branches immediately after the first day of training school or after completing all the training schools, according to the convenience of their individual communities.

In sparsely settled areas, or where only one Institute in a district is interested in the problem of making good use of wool in the home, five day short courses have been scheduled. Such courses have been held recently at Snow Road, Vankleek Hill, and Lakefield and a number of courses will be given during March, April and May of 1937.

The women taking this project have become acquainted with the wool industry from the raw material to the finished product—quilts, quilting, and knitting. Washing wool has always been considered a disagreeable piece of work. The amazement of the leaders when they see a dirty, greasy, bunch of wool come out clean, white and not matted, with no more work than lifting it from one water to another, inspires them to go back and show the members of their own branches. (Contributed by Edith Hopkins, Instructor in Homecrafts, Women's Institute Branch.)

LEATHER GLOVES
ARE MADE UNDER
GUIDANCE OF
77 LEADERS

Leather glove making is the most popular of the home crafts conducted by the Ontario Women's Institutes this year. The instruction is being given by trained local leaders to the interested members of branch Institutes participating in this programme.

Seventy-seven branches sent leaders to the training schools held at Finch, Lanark, Napanee, Colebrook, Welland, Bothwell and Orillia. The leaders learned how to select leather, cut a pattern to fit her own hand, cut and make a well fitting pair of gloves, and also how to teach others to do the same.

"Pay more, buy less, object not to five dollars for a pair of gloves when they will outlast five cheap pairs" is a true statement, but to-day, when a woman goes to purchase a pair of gloves, she will admire a pair of hand sewn gloves, wish she could afford them, pass on and buy something cheaper. Such a buyer may have the superior hand sewn gloves, if she is fortunate in living in a community where one of her neighbours has learned at a Women's Institute training school how to make gloves, and the woman concerned is herself handy with a needle.

She can purchase a skin tanned in an Ontario factory, take instruction from a local leader, and get the coveted pair of gloves at about half the price of the gloves she admired in the store window.

In seventy-seven communities in Ontario, women have this privilege this year. (Contributed by Edith Hopkins, Instructor in Homecrafts, Women's Institute Branch.)