

# HOME and COUNTRY

Published by

The Ontario Women's Institutes at Toronto, Ontario

Volume 3

MAY, 1937

Number 2

## CANADIAN WOMEN'S INSTITUTES HAVE BROAD INTERESTS AND CONTACTS

Lady Tweedsmuir, Canada's first lady, backs up her keen interest in Women's Institutes, not only by her inspirational talks and attendance at meetings, but also by the organization of a prairie library scheme. This was founded last fall, after her trans-continental tour, and to date she has collected over 3,000 volumes for these lending libraries, which are distributed through the provincial offices of Women's Institutes in the prairie provinces to the most isolated parts.

On her recent visit to England, during her audience with Queen Mary, Her Majesty made enquiries about the progress of this work of sending books to lonely people in remote districts and expressed her approval and sympathy with the scheme. This was followed by a gift of 109 books which are to be distributed among the four prairie provinces. Each will bear this inscription: "This book is the gift of Her Majesty Queen Mary to Lady Tweedsmuir Prairie Libraries—January 1937".

### Attends Peace Conference

Mrs. R. B. Colloton, Lorne Park, Ontario, national convener of the committee on Peace and International Relations, represented the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada at the recent conference held in Chicago on the "Cause and Cure of War". Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt is president. She reports notable speakers and a fine system of study for group purposes in the "Marathon Round Tables". The general objectives of this association are to build effective peace machinery, to reduce war machinery, and to obtain guaranteed security against war for every nation.

Mrs. Colloton suggests the following for a study programme: significance and underlying principles of such forms of government as Communism, Fascism, Nazism (terms new in common use, without a very clear idea of differences); Canada's defense policies and our national status in relation to the Empire; should we depend on Britain for security against aggression without assuming a degree of responsibility for safeguard?

### Fortieth Anniversary

This is the fortieth anniversary year of the organization of the Mother Institute—that of Stoney Creek, Ontario—this event taking place in February 1897. Of course there was a party and a birthday cake—and weren't those members of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada Board pleased to receive pieces of that delicious cake? In accordance with a resolution passed at the last biennial convention in Charlottetown, British Columbia Women's Institutes have initiated the celebrating of an annual Adelaide Hoodless day each February and would like to see this custom made national. This year, the Point Grey branch in Vancouver had a direct connection with the Mother Branch, when Mrs. Adam Inch, a member of it, was the speaker at a birthday tea and cut the lovely birthday cake which was decorated artistically in the Women's Institute green and gold colours.

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## HER MAJESTY QUEEN MARY'S MESSAGE TO THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF THE BRITISH DOMINIONS

*I would like to take this opportunity of sending to one and all a word of greeting and congratulation on the good work they have done. I take a great interest in the movement, not only in Great Britain, but throughout the Empire.*

*I am well aware how much the Institutes have already done towards improving conditions for women in rural areas; how they have made for better citizenship, happier homes, and good neighbourliness.*

*I hope that this spirit of mutual help and goodwill will be extended to the country-women of all lands, for wherever country-women are organized they work for the great human causes along the paths of true progress.*

*I would like to add that I am much interested in the Women's Institutes at Sandringham, and I attend the afternoons as often as I can. It makes a nice meeting place for everybody.*

*The Women's Institute movement should prove a fresh and valuable link between all parts and peoples of the Empire, and I hope ultimately between all parts of the World.*

MARY R.

(From February issue of "The Countrywomen" official organ of Associated Country Women of the World.)

## RURAL YOUTH PROFITED BY SHORT COURSES

During December, January, February and March 2,795 girls and boys attended winter short course schools in Home Economics and Agriculture which were conducted by the Women's Institute Branch and Agriculture Representative Branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture.

The 35 one-month schools in Home Economics reported 1,038 girls enrolled with ages ranging from 10 to 70 with an average age of 20; 41 per cent. had not attended high school; 28 per cent. had attended two years or less. Over 9 per cent. had had advantage of special training in nursing, commercial and normal school and university. Over 69 per cent. were farm girls, 24 per cent. village girls and 3 per cent. town girls. Only 15 per cent. had been members of a Homemaking Club.

The seven three-month schools in Home Economics report 244 enrolled with ages ranging from 12 to 46, with an average age of 19; 32 per cent. had not attended high schools, 20 per cent. had attended two years or less. Only 7 per cent. reported advantage of special training in nursing, commercial and normal schools and university. Some 72 per cent. were farm girls, 16 per cent. village girls and 12 per cent. town girls. Only 28 per cent. had at any time been members of a Homemaking Club.

Instruction was given in foods and cookery, household management and laundry at all schools, with clothing or health education optional for one-month schools. Clothing, health education and house furnishing was included in three months curriculum. In addition joint classes with boys

## WOMEN'S INSTITUTE CONVENTIONS ARE ANNOUNCED

Ontario will be especially favoured this coming November by having the opportunity of entertaining the Board of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada. The biennial meetings of the Dominion Board will be held in Toronto, November 16-22. On November 18, the Toronto Convention area will release its programme to the Dominion Federation in order that discussions and lectures of national interest may be scheduled. The programme will be the official convention of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada. It will be open to all Institute members. Ontario should be well represented. Mrs. A. E. Walker, Bartonville, Ontario, president of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada, is planning a programme which will be both inspirational and practical.

As usual, 13 Women's Institute conventions will be held in Ontario this coming fall. The places of meeting, dates and areas served by the conventions are shown on page 4 of this issue. The officers listed on this chart will be largely responsible for the convention programmes.

Members having worth-while suggestions for the improvement of conventions should send them to the chairman heading their own area.

The lists of conveners for standing committees for each convention area are given in the chart, in order that the district conveners may send their reports to the convention area conveners soon after the district annual meeting.

were held for special lectures in poultry, gardening, horticulture, care of milk and for literaries.

### 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 May a report of meetings from January to April, inclusive, on the form provided for this purpose.

## CONVENER OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH RECOMMENDS KEEPING OF RECORDS

When our delegates returned from the Washington Conference of the Associated Country Women of the World, we were informed that Ontario was well in the lead in its work in historical research.

Such praise is surely great encouragement, but how are we taking it? Are we, as it were, sitting with a self-satisfied air, secure in the knowledge that we have accomplished great things, or are we accepting it as a challenge to carry on with undiminished effort until every county of our province can truthfully say, "Oh yes, we have the early history of our settlement gathered in and we are keeping track of current events as the years go by"?

### Sustain Reputation

It is one thing to make a reputation but in most cases it requires continuous effort to sustain it, and this is especially true in the work of our committee, because when we are satisfied, if that ever were possible, that we have cleared up all that we can find of our past history, we must continue our activities in order to secure authentic records of the happenings in our own community, especially those which have contributed to its progress, be they small or great.

We like the attitude of that branch convener in the Rainy River area who, apparently not too well satisfied with her own report, said in closing—"If I am placed as convener next year, I pledge myself to delve into the history of the Burdiss Women's Institute and give a more interesting report".

### Historical Research

Historical Research does not mean having just one meeting in the year devoted to that subject. It means keeping constantly on the alert for any historical news that may be heard or read, digging up other bits that may form strong links in the chain of facts, and recording, in some permanent form, the current events of your township, town or county from month to month.

It is desirable that local conveners should have local news verified before recording. It is advisable, too, that district conveners familiarize themselves with the more important newspapers in their districts and that they make sure that at least one local newspaper is filed in each county.

### County Archivist

If your district convener can manage alone well and good, but if your county is large why not appoint a county archivist whose duty it will be to file all original manuscript stories after making sure that copies of them have been sent to the provincial convener, and if you have not made other provision for the safe-keeping of these, then we suggest that you approach your county council with a request for space in a fire-proof section of the county buildings, until you can secure space and funds for at least the nucleus of a county museum.

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