

HOME AND COUNTRY

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

EDUCATION WEEK
FEB. 6-13

Get ready to observe one of our most important annual celebrations. The schoolrooms of Canada will be the hosts. Canadian Education Week, February 6-13, will be the occasion.

For the fourth year, a week has been set aside for the thoughtful study of the needs, the aims, the achievements of the greatest enterprise in the world—education.

There was a time when education was the privilege of the few—the children whose parents were wealthy enough to pay for tuition at home or in private schools. When democracy came into being, the slogan became "education for the masses", and an attempt was made to give equal opportunity to all.

Taking stock of our organization today, we find rights of children, as asserted, do not correspond with actual facts as they exist. Equal opportunity does not exist between provinces nor within the boundaries of the same province. Only the federal government can equalize these educational differences. "And is it not the very essence of democracy that a child in a poor community has the same right to full development as the child in a wealthier community? Federal aid in the construction of highways, canals, harbours, is considered good policy because these are contributing to the national well-being. What is more important to national well-being than education?"

The Canadian Teachers' Federation which sponsors Education Week has chosen as its theme—Education, a National Responsibility. During the week, February 6-13, the radio, the press and the schools themselves, will endeavour to inform the public of the work being done for the childhood, the youth, and the adulthood of our Dominion.

Read, Listen and Visit Your School!

(Contributed by Miss Mabel Buckle, Publicity Convener of the Federation of Women Teachers' Association of Ontario.)

IN MEMORY

Women's Institutes throughout Ontario lost a friend and outstanding leader by the death of Mrs. R. B. Colloton of Lorne Park, on October tenth. Long will she be remembered for her never-deviating loyalty to the Institute movement, her promotion of a sound educational programme and her quick sympathy and fairness. Even at the risk of her own popularity, her courage never failed her. She stood firmly behind what she felt was right. With these sterling qualities, Mrs. Colloton combined a vivacious personality and a fine sense of humour. The members of the Women's Institutes of Ontario profited much by her interest and friendship.

Mrs. Colloton served as president of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario for three years. At the time of her death she was Convener of Legislation for Ontario and Convener of Peace Education and International Relationships for the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada. This year a Coronation Medal was awarded Mrs. Colloton for her loyal services to the Women's Institutes.

Here and There with
Homemaking Clubs in 1937

Over 2,100 members from some 350 Homemaking Clubs carried through to completion club programmes and attended county or district achievement days. Every county and district, except Rainy River and Kenora, proudly boasted of from one to ten Homemaking Clubs during 1936-37.

Busy Club Members

Club members were busy at meetings learning the how and why of many daily tasks and applying, at home, the information and new practices in planning, preparing and serving attractive nutritious food, improving storage facilities for clothing, practising good grooming, planning, selecting and making simple garments, and planting and caring for home gardens. While farm homes in one county enjoyed daughters' achievements in making tea-biscuits and appetizing supper dishes, in an adjoining county, club members' families were becoming more and more addicted to healthful crisp salads and tempting vegetable plates so deftly prepared in accord with the last word in vegetable cookery. "Safe Milk and More Milk" became the slogan of the Milky Way clubs. As a result of these clubs, small members of families, delighting in delicious and nutritious milk dishes, happily and readily increased their daily milk consumption.

Clothes Closets-Up-to-Date became a family task in some counties as father or brother was called in to lend a hand in placing rods, building shelves and to assist in various ways with some substantial bit of carpentry. "A place for everything and everything in its place" became more than mere words to club members, and now closet doors need not be carefully closed to hide careless storage of clothing—rather they are deliberately left ajar so that all visitors may see garments and accessories neatly and conveniently stored in an up-to-date clothes closet.

Actually 532 spectator sport dresses made by club members showed that cottons may be smart when material is wisely selected and skilfully fashioned into dresses suitably designed for the wearers. The members of Cottons May Be Smart clubs acquired an

amazing amount of practical clothing information, became more intelligent consumers and developed new skills and techniques—all of which they are now applying in being well-dressed individuals.

Achievement Days

Individual progress and achievement were evidenced on every hand at County Achievement Days. Members and clubs proudly displayed their products, compared them with others and learned wherein improvement might be made. Hands, previously unskilled, soon learned to work button-holes and conceal unsightly holes with good darning. Some 360 beginners exhibited their first spectator sport dresses—and 70 seniors, members of Summer Clothes for Girls clubs, displayed their second club dresses, dainty afternoon dresses which had been carefully planned in line with their summer wardrobes. Well-groomed juniors and seniors, wearing attractive, suitable and well-cared-for clothing, were happy in the knowledge that they were well dressed, and told in a most definite and practical way the story of their club work and personal achievement.

What a fund of accurate information and techniques regarding the how and why of many simple daily household tasks was passed on by members of 235 demonstration teams to interested spectators!

More and more at county achievement days and inter-county achievement days (Class A and B Fairs) individual success is being measured and recognized from the standpoint of individual progress and development, rather than through competition of individuals. Members are increasingly more concerned with improving themselves and beating their own previous records than doing something better than some one else.

And how happily and effectively club members told the story of club work at fall conventions! As a result of this, it is expected that many more girls will be encouraged to participate in club work in 1937-1938.

(Contributed by Miss Florence P. Eadie, Women's Institute Branch, Department of Agriculture.)

Dominion Federated Women's
Institutes Convened at
Toronto, Nov. 18.

(Continued from page 1, col. 4.) combinations of the offices of the three secretaries and treasurer, and the establishment of a central office with a paid official. These were tabled, as it was felt that the time was not opportune for this action.

A National Magazine

Publishing a national magazine was fully discussed—this idea first commended by Her Excellency, Miss Hazel McCain, Quebec Women's Institute Superintendent, then presented a fully worked-out plan for such a publication, this to be financed by the advertising, which was explained later in detail by Mr. Gross of the Unity Press, Montreal. It was decided to postpone

this matter until a subscription survey of the members could be made (subscription to be 25c a year) by the various provinces, an advertising survey by Mr. Gross, and a survey of "house organs" (magazines published by companies and societies) by the publicity director.

The convention was not all smooth sailing. The whirlpools of the constitution endangered its navigation. But piloted by Mr. Evan Gray, a corporation lawyer of Toronto, a new course was charted.

Those who attended feel that from now on the provinces will have a clear understanding of procedure and representation and much precious time and money will be saved in the national meetings.

(Contributed by Elizabeth Bailey Price, F.W.I.C. Publicity Director.)

CANADA'S GIFT
TO
COUNTRY WOMEN

Mrs. H. McGregor of British Columbia, the recently elected president of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada, has been actively interested in Women's Institute work for years. Her comprehension of the programme and possibilities of the Women's Institute is shown in her following message:

"Our Canadian Institutes have proven to be not only educational media in health, economics and civics, but also have become social centres, particularly in isolated communities. Their message of neighbourliness has been the 'Open Sesame' to other countries, until today, we, as the 'Associated Country Women of the World', find affiliation in twenty-nine countries."

Matthew Arnold has said, "If ever the world sees a time when women shall come together for the benefit of mankind, there will be a power such as the world has never known"—and so it seems to me, that we might use this splendid organization as an educational factor for Peace. International barriers produce prejudice and suspicion. Peace is creative—not a product of law. Just at this season, when carols from every land are proclaiming the message of the Prince of Peace, may we join in the chorus.

Let us welcome the strangers within our gates—the new Canadians; adapt the arts and culture that are their heritage to this land of new opportunities. We may not speak their language but handicraft and art are universal languages. These new Canadians have brought with them the love of land—to hold for themselves and their children. So often we sell our birthright, forgetting our responsibilities to the new generations, and our debt to pioneers who deeded to us their dreams of home.

Recent statistics show that it is not the bright lights, nor companionship, that are luring our youth from rural centres, but, rather, lack of remuneration. This brings in another phase of our work—economics, co-operative marketing, as well as study of products and their production.

The entire work of our standing committees is interwoven; education and better schools with agriculture and economics, and legislation with industries. The trend of the times is resulting in changes in curricula with adaptation to present needs; health work, demanding the birthright of every child to physical well being and teaching that today medicine is preventive as well as curative. This has brought the health centre and the health nurse—both school and public; the cottage hospital to outlying districts and, into the hinterland of Australia, the "Flying Doctor". We have come a long way since '97 when the dreams of Adelaide Hoodless became reality at Stoney Creek.

We do lack continuity of effort. Some provinces have their own institute publication, acquainting each local branch with various interests, but a federal project as a means of information has long been a star on a distant horizon. At the recent meeting of the F.W.I.C. in Toronto, Her Excellency The Lady Tweedsmuir stressed the advantages of such a publication and expressed the hope of its realization. Plans were made to have provincial surveys undertaken and we are confident the result will be a magazine—not only featuring institute activities, but one to be in the forefront of Canadian publications.

In wishing you happiness for the coming year, may I ask your co-operation in my new responsibility—knowing that only by working together can we achieve a higher ideal. The rule of life is peace and understanding, the dissonance of life, rancour, hatred and suspicion; and so I have faith for 1938, knowing that ours is the greater joy—for women have found the common touch.