

HOME AND COUNTRY

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

PRIDE IN HOME GROUNDS

To have open spaces about one's home is one of the great advantages of living on a farm, in a village or small town. High rent does not have to be paid for fresh air and sunshine. Then, too, this space furnishes grounds and fertile soil to nourish beautiful shade trees, shrubs and flowers, all of which are very costly in urban centres. But a drive through rural Ontario convinces one that this opportunity to develop simple attractive surroundings around the home is usually neglected. Somehow, there is not sufficient appreciation of how much an attractive home adds to one's satisfactions in living. One wonders if the family living in the grim weather-beaten house, open to the blast of every wind and without the protection of a tree or shrub, have any pride at all in their house and if it is really a home.

Certainly the planting of a few trees and the transplanting of native shrubs costs practically nothing in money, but it does demand interest in the home and an urge to try to make living a little more gracious. Planning is required to secure time to do the planting and after-care; consideration also must be given to landscaping and this takes a knowledge of the principles of design. A little interest in making one's home attractive leads one to explore new subjects which may be of infinite interest and joy always.

The stimulation of interest in beautifying home surroundings is the first important step and it is here that the women's institute should play a part. The standing committee on Agriculture in each branch institute might very well make "Beautifying Home Grounds" the outstanding enterprise in their programme of work.

If a local committee expects to do an effective piece of work on such a project, it must study the situation in the community—i.e., find out: the percentage of homes already interested in doing some planting, the percentage needing to do planting, the availability of native shrubs, the pos-

(Continued on page 2, col. 4)

Rural Girls Attend Short Course Schools

Beautiful, sparkling winter mornings and disagreeable winter mornings alike found 1,665 Ontario rural girls schoolward bound to special classes in Home Economics. During the winter months these schools were conducted in some 43 communities by the Women's Institute Branch and Agricultural Representatives Branch. The students had to be up bright and early to lend a hand at home before being hurried off by parents who willingly assumed extra responsibilities in order that sons and daughters might take advantage of these classes. Cautiously they motored over slippery roads, dauntlessly hiked three or four miles over snowy roads, or daily drove ten miles with horse and cutter to classes.

And what crowded, busy, happy days they were—with so much to see, to hear and to do—studying the hows and whys of daily tasks, as based on sound facts and information gained from scientific research, actually applying new knowledge, acquiring new skills, making friends, working and playing together, participating in discussions and literary programmes and planning ways and means of continuing learning. As the courses progressed, the students appreciated more and more their need for directed guidance and training in performing their work in their homes and on their farms, and in their efforts for personal development.

Improvised classrooms in town halls, Sunday school rooms, houses, and equipped laboratories in normal schools, became busy work rooms with girls studying new text books, learning techniques by actually doing, discovering good practices for themselves, learning to plan by planning, and developing ability to judge products, evaluating success of undertakings, and deciding things for themselves.

Learned by Doing

An attractive personal appearance meant more than mere talk and a set of tabulated rules in a note book, when girls discussed and systematically practised good grooming, improved food habits, checked posture, observed daily health habits and wore suitable and well-cared-for clothing to classes. Selection of style and material for dresses was a personal problem for each girl and purchases were made only after careful study of individual types and requirements. Becoming, gay, colourful, smart 1938 frocks were the result of their wise planning and painstaking effort.

Approved Practices Adopted

Good work habits were established particularly where accommodation afforded an opportunity for considerable class participation. With what satisfaction tea kettles and stoves were kept bright and shining, tea

towels laundered, stains removed from choice linen and everything kept clean and orderly.

Rat charts illustrating effects of deficiency diets showed the results of increased consumption of milk and vegetables, regular meals and plans for producing more vegetables and a greater variety of vegetables in the home garden in 1938. Knowledge and skills in vegetable cookery and preparation of milk dishes became highly desirable and important. Clean, safe milk became a slogan at many courses and home pasteurizing was reported by many homes.

Family Meals Were Served

Every opportunity was utilized for practical experience in planning, preparing and serving meals to family groups. Fortunate was the special speaker who arrived at meal time and was invited to join the dinner or supper party. It might be a chicken dinner—with tomato cocktail, properly trussed chicken roasted to a turn, cranberry sauce, carrots cooked just enough, potatoes and a delicious apple dessert. Not only would it be a well-balanced, nutritious meal attractively served but a happy family party with host, hostess and family members entertaining in a perfectly natural and altogether delightful and gracious manner. Even with a three mile tramp ahead on a snowy night, dishes were put away clean and shining and kitchen left spick and span in every detail before the family group happily started homeward.

Lessons in sandwich making were followed by tea parties with mothers for special guests. Proudly and serenely daughters who knew the rules introduced their mothers, class officers poured tea at gaily decorated table, and altogether the young hostesses entertained right royally with poise, assurance and girlish dignity. Class dresses and gay peasant aprons were displayed or worn by proud owners, happy in their achievement and in the knowledge that their dresses were becoming.

Students Accept Challenge

At the conclusion of a three-months school, a councilman, who had watched with interest sons and daughters from neighbouring farm homes, congratulated them on being better looking boys and girls than on opening day. No doubt he was right. For had not broadened interests, an awakened awareness of the importance of their job—a job requiring intelligence, training, health, directed energy and judgment—a new sense of security and individual responsibility, challenged them to be up and doing, to new goals and continued learning.

Financial Statement Oct. 1, 1936—Sept. 30th, 1937 Federated Women's Institutes

An examination of the following financial report of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario will show that the receipts and expenditures practically balance.

Receipts

Balance in bank	\$4,032.00
Federation fees	3,851.29
Pins, hand books, song sheets	171.85
Adjustment of expenses to Convention	4.30
Bank interest	12.35
	<u>\$8,071.79</u>

Expenditures

Allocation to F.W.I.C.	\$ 500.00
Allocation to A.C.W.W.	50.00
Grants to Conventions	400.00
Convention Speaker's expenses	302.38
Board meetings	838.49
Expenses Federated Representatives	673.10
Express for relief packages.	50.00

O. E. A.	22.00
The Countrywoman	2.00
Peace literature	5.00
Pins	68.40
Peace garden upkeep	24.00
President's travelling allowance	100.00
Filing cabinet for Historical research	43.71
Home and Country	413.68
Stationery and supplies	69.95
Secretary's honorarium and bond	287.00
Typewriter	37.75
Excise stamps, postage, etc.	47.65
Conveners' postage	15.48
Flowers	16.72
Auditor, 1936	10.00
Exchange	38.40

Total expenditure	\$4,011.71
Balance in bank, Oct., 1937.	\$4,060.08

Certified correct,

J. C. PRIOR, Auditor.

FALL FAIR EXHIBITS CLAIM ATTENTION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

The Home Department of the Fall Fairs has always been a place for women's institute members to meet, but they have not felt especially concerned with its purpose or accomplishments. Mr. J. A. Carroll, Superintendent of Fairs, Department of Agriculture, and the provincial executive of the Agricultural Societies of Ontario have for the last two years encouraged the women interested in Fall Fairs to attend the annual convention of the Agricultural Societies. This February, many women interested in both Fall Fairs and Women's Institutes attended the convention.

Under the chairmanship of Mrs. Ethel Brant Monture, Hagersville, Ontario, discussions of how to increase the value of the homemaking exhibits at the fairs were carried on with the result of outlining the objectives of the exhibits, and making a suggested list of desirable classes available to Fair Boards. The part that a Women's Institute exhibit should take at the fair was also clarified. Elsewhere in this issue an article written by Miss Esther Slieter, of the Women's Institute Branch, discusses the advisability of the Women's Institutes being responsible for an educational exhibit showing their accomplishments rather than a miscellaneous exhibit of articles gathered at random from institute members.

After referring to the educational programme of the Women's Institute Branch and its co-operation with local and district institutes, Miss Bess McDermand, Superintendent of Women's Institute Branch, said:

"We have many types of projects and, if they are recognized by the fall fairs, I think better premium lists will result and ultimately a better standard of exhibits will be attained because behind these projects there has been purposeful activity, activity which has been both educational and inspirational. For instance, a district which has completed a project on quilts and quilting should know a lot more about the business of making quilts and what is a good pattern, than a district which hasn't gone through the experience of studying quilts.

"There can be a very nice link-up between the educational programme in home economics directed by the Women's Institute Branch and the local fair units. To make this possible, we, at the Department, will be pleased to advise you as to the kind of programme being carried on in your district. One Home Economics Coach may work in as many as three or four counties. The coach knows the programme in each of her counties and will be a good adviser. Get in touch with her. We are very much interested in fairs because we know that they are helping to set good standards and stimulating interest in better homemaking. Co-operation between our groups should mean a good deal for the improvement of rural living".

(Continued from page 2, col. 1)

sibility of obtaining desirable stock from nurseries on a club basis, the possibility of establishing a root exchange in the community, the possibility of calling a community meeting of both men and women to discuss common problems concerning the matter, and the desirability of landscaping the grounds of a local building such as a church, hall or school-house. If the committee feels the community is ready to move forward on the beautifying of home grounds, a demonstration lecture on landscaping the grounds of the modest home should be given to the interested persons.

The important thing to remember is that the beautifying of home grounds should be one of the aims of women's institutes.