

HOME AND COUNTRY

Published quarterly by
The Federated Women's Institutes
of Ontario

The Institute Branch
Department of Agriculture
Ontario

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE:

Mrs. T. J. McDowell, Milverton.
Miss M. V. Powell, Whitby.
Miss B. McDermand, Superintendent Women's
Institutes, Toronto.

MEMBERS OF PROVINCIAL BOARD:

Honorary President:
Her Excellency The Lady Tweedsmuir.

Honorary Vice-President:
Miss B. McDermand, Toronto.

President:

Mrs. T. J. McDowell, Milverton

Vice-Presidents:

Mrs. F. Denyes, R.R. 3, Brighton.
Mrs. F. Hewson, Duntroon.
Mrs. E. Duke, Port Carling.

Directors on the Executive:

Mrs. E. Duffy, Maberly.
Mrs. J. W. Cunningham, R.R. 2, Elora
Mrs. W. R. Steeper, Mount Albert
Miss M. L. Schnurr, Linwood.
Mrs. W. R. Tait, R.R. 1, Dayton

Directors:

Mrs. S. H. Meak, Lunenburg.
Mrs. W. J. Reynolds, Frankville.
Mrs. Garnet Shields, Ida.
Mrs. Harold Wilkinson, R.R. 2, Shallow Lake.
Mrs. A. W. Brandon, R.R. 6, Galt.
Mrs. D. D. Guntton, Simcoe.
Mrs. L. G. Grazier, Walkerton.
Mrs. John H. Wilcox, Woodlee.
Mrs. Gus Campbell, Mount Brydges.
Mrs. Dan Moore, New Liskeard.
Mrs. A. M. Bosler, Schreiber.
Mrs. O. A. M. Herrmann, R.R. 1, Emo.

Secretary-Treasurer:

Mrs. W. B. Leatherdale, Coldwater.

Correspondence should be addressed to

"HOME and COUNTRY"

The Women's Institute Branch
Parliament Buildings, Toronto

This paper is distributed through the secre-
taries of Women's Institutes to the Women's
Institute members.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

STANDARD OF ACHIEVEMENT

Enjoyable entertaining programmes have increased the membership of many local institutes and have fully demonstrated that the regular meeting of a successful institute must be a pleasant occasion. However, enjoyable meetings are merely one of the contributing factors to a successful institute and other qualifications are needed for desirable achievement and effectiveness.

A manner of measuring the value of a programme of a local institute is very difficult to attain. Those who understand institute work and rural living will have to devise a measuring stick. In the beginning, it will necessarily be a crude tool and will require many new inventions to improve its usefulness. But even a crude measuring stick will help to evaluate what is being done by an institute. The first attempt to measure a local programme might be done by setting up a standard of achievement and checking the local programme with it.

Many institute workers confuse the institute calendar with the institute programme. The printed announcement of institute meetings which details the lectures, discussions and public functions with their dates is, strictly speaking, a calendar. Programmes of local institutes are rarely recorded in writing in their entirety. A programme should define the aim or purpose of the work. Long-time objectives should be kept in the foreground. The motto of the Women's Institute, "For Home and Country," helps to do this. However, every institute has its specific and immediate aims and, in proper programme building, these are not felt vaguely, but are put into a clear statement. Before the aim can be arrived at, the local situation must be analyzed because an effective programme must be built up out of the situation where it is to function. The aim is a statement of the solution of the needs of a situation.

After an institute knows what it

(Continued on page 4, col. 4)

Mary Wright Discusses Parliamentary Procedure

Mary Wright was thoroughly enjoying Agnes' annual visit.

For a month, Mary had been anticipating the week of Agnes' company. She had planned her work in order that she would have the minimum of responsibility while Agnes was with her. Her menus supplied Agnes' favourite dishes and reminded them both of their school days. They enjoyed each day in a leisurely way, but there was no monotony about their schedule.

Agnes met her old friends and acquaintances one afternoon when Mary invited them in for a cup of tea, and on an evening when they played cards. However, Mary knew that Agnes enjoyed the country as well as the people who lived in it and she took pains to capitalize on the assets of her lovely farm home. When they chatted, they sat under the maples in the back yard, and one night they had a picnic supper outdoors.

One morning when Mary's husband had some free time they took their bacon and eggs to the river and cooked them over an open fire in the fireplace which Donald had built the previous summer. After breakfast, they sat by the river-side in the shade of the big elm, enjoying the clear morning air and the sight of the cattle feeding on the opposite bank.

"It is moments like this that makes me wonder why I ever left the place of my birth," commented Agnes.

"I don't think you felt like that at the institute meeting yesterday afternoon," replied Mary.

"No, perhaps I didn't," laughed Agnes. "To be truthful, I was irritated with that meeting. I suppose my irritation was mostly accounted for by the president. She should have been able to guide the group into better methods of procedure. How long has she been president?"

"Two years," answered Mary.

"In that time she should have gotten at least a respect for parliamentary procedure," exploded Agnes. "Only at odd moments did she seem to realize that time and experience have worked out certain fundamentals that are helpful when a group of persons wish to do business. I can see that a person, who has never presided at a meeting, is going to make a lot of mistakes at first and I have all kinds of sympathy and tolerance in such situations, but I lose my patience when a person has known for two years that she is expected to preside at business meetings and then doesn't bother to find out how to do it."

"I suppose she always intends to, but never gets down to it," excused Mary, "and she may dread to read a manual on Rules of Order."

"That admits laziness, doesn't it?" Agnes quickly interjected. "It is so simple. One would think that every one should know that only one subject can be attended to at a time. Yesterday afternoon, there were a dozen questions up at a time and as a consequence, not one thing was decided by the group. I know that is partly the fault of the members, but a president could very well tell them that such a question is being considered at the moment and that no other question will be accepted by the chair until something has been done with the first question. The members would soon learn."

"And do you remember, free discussion was not allowed on Mrs. Able's motion that a committee should be appointed to get plans for landscaping the grounds around the community hall," reminded Mary.

"Yes, that is another fundamental that your institute has to learn; that every proposal presented for consideration is entitled to full and free discussion," advised Agnes.

"At any rate, our present president accepts every one at par," claimed Mary. "Our last president was very apt to give more encouragement to some members than others. A good presiding officer must realize that the rights of all members are equal."

"Yesterday, no one was favoured," replied Agnes, "every one talked as long and as many times as they pleased. No one seemed to realize that she should speak only once to a question. If one feels that one has to speak again, the second contribution should be in explanation of the first. Every one seemed to speak out of turn and several questions were up at one time. We all came away without the group deciding what should be done."

"Oh, no," objected Mary, "that isn't quite right. Don't you remember the president said that she and the secretary would find out how much it would cost to lay cement walks for an entrance to the community hall?"

"That is just what I mean," said Agnes. "It wasn't the majority that consciously made that decision. The president seemed to sense that they might want it done and no one objected or offered a better plan from the sheer exhaustion caused by the babble of tongues and the confusion of ideas."

"What your institute needs to know is that the will of the majority must be ascertained and then it must be obeyed, and at the same time the rights of the minority must be preserved."

"We are all such different personalities in our institute," laughed Mary, "that we sometimes find it hard to get together."

"Makes your group all the more interesting," replied Agnes. "That is why you all need to belong to an organization that demands co-operation. You are all the finer for the experience. It is here that the fifth fundamental principle of parliamentary law should be recognized. The best way I can explain that principle is by quoting, 'The personalities and desires of the separate members should be so merged that, although the members participate as individuals, the participation is always directed toward the best interests of the group as a whole.'"

"Well, these fundamentals are all very well, but we need some simple techniques to help us manage our affairs," responded Mary.

"You are a good secretary, Mary," commended Agnes. "Can you suggest to your president that every important item of business should be brought before the institute meeting in the form of a motion?"

"I suppose I might do that and say that I have to have motions to record the business accomplished. The minutes of yesterday's meeting are very poor. I can't record that the meeting felt it wise to look into the cost of cement pavements." A secretary can only record in the minutes what actually took place and this should be in terms of motions."

"I felt sorry for you," sympathized Agnes, "but I think when poor procedure is being used, you could do some subtle guiding. Your whole group needs to know that two main motions cannot be entertained at one time."

"Some of our members are confused because they have been in assemblies when two motions have been before the group at one time," replied Mary. "They didn't realize that one motion was a main motion, while the other was a subsidiary motion, which is really a device to take care of the main motion in the best manner possible."

"I think it would be a good thing, Mary," advised Agnes, "if you would

(Continued on page 4, col. 1)

WOMEN'S INSTITUTES MAY HELP WITH WEED CONTROL

Women's Institutes have given leadership and support to many worthy projects. The Crops, Seeds and Weeds Branch of the Department of Agriculture solicit your co-operation in helping to make our province a better place in which to live by supporting a vigorous weed control campaign within your municipality.

The control of weeds should be of vital interest to every individual in Ontario, in that we have very little land that is not infested with weeds and none that is entirely free.

Weeds cost Ontario millions of dollars annually. They completely destroy some crops and never fail to injure others in proportion to their number and nature; they compete seriously with crops for plant food, moisture and light; increase the labour necessary for crop production; increase the cost of preparing many crops for consumption; impair the quality and reduce the value of many products of the soil; they lower the value of property; they harbour insects and fungus pests destructive and injurious to economic plants and are sometimes poisonous and may endanger the life or health of man and animals. This tremendous loss can and must be controlled if we hope to continue to produce crops profitably.

Weeds, such as Ragweed and Poison Ivy have been the cause of a great deal of suffering, hospital and doctor bills and have ruined many a vacation. Ontario, with its thousands of children and with its enormous revenue derived annually from tourists, cannot afford to neglect such weeds. Millions of tourists visit our province annually. If we wish these visitors to go home with a favourable impression and to return the following year, together with their friends, we must keep our community, municipality and province as attractive as possible.

Weeds have no place in a progressive community. It is very discouraging for one who is interested in the control of weeds and who has a well-kept farm, lawn or garden to be living near an area where weeds are neglected. This condition must not exist any longer. The Weed Control Act provides the necessary means whereby such areas may be cleaned up. Municipal councils are appointed by the ratepayers to safeguard their public interests; when weeds and weed seeds become a menace to adjoining property, their control becomes a public problem and it is the duty of the municipal council to see that ratepayers who are making an effort to control weeds are protected.

The body of The Weed Control Act states: "Every occupant of land, or, if the land is unoccupied, the owner shall destroy all weeds designated noxious by the regulations as often in every year as is sufficient to prevent the ripening of their seeds."

Every municipal council must appoint at least one Weed Inspector, his duty being to go over his municipality thoroughly often enough to know that noxious weeds are not being neglected.

Legislation in itself will not control a single weed. Any work which is done must be the result of definite human action. The co-operation of every individual, organization and governing body is necessary in a united effort.

(Contributed by John D. MacLeod, Crops, Seeds and Weeds Branch, Department of Agriculture.)

Savard, Temiskaming.—Sent local leaders to the district training school on Vegetable Cookery and planned for the leader and her assistant to present a phase of this work at each meeting until all the work on the project had been covered.