

HOME AND COUNTRY

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

THE INSTITUTES LOOK FORWARD

At this season every Institute is looking two ways — back at the achievements of the year which is ending, and forward to the programme for the ensuing year. At the district annual the exchange of ideas between Institutes will give each Institute fresh inspiration and practical suggestions for its own programme; there too, district activities will be planned which can be successful only when every Institute participates. Each local Institute is urged to support district activities, for the old saying, "In unity is strength" is as true to-day as ever.

However, one of the strong features of the Women's Institute lies in the fact that each local Institute plans its individual programme. This means that it can then be adjusted to meet the specific interests and needs of its members and community in a way which would be impossible otherwise. Those Institutes which plan the programme for the whole year in advance find at the end of the year that the results have more than justified the effort. Of course, adjustments will have to be made during the year, and details planned from month to month, but the long-time view makes possible a well-balanced programme which is very satisfying.

What are the measures of a successful programme? Ask these questions among others:

Is it based on the interests of the members so that each feels that she both benefits from and enjoys the meetings?

Does it make at least one contribution which notably enriches the life of the community?

Is there a good balance in educational, cultural and social features?

(Continued on Col. 4, this page).

THE QUESTIONINGS OF A TOAST MISTRESS

"Oh, Mother, I don't know what to do about these toasts!"

Judith Ellsworth looked up with anxiously questioning eyes from the papers spread before her. She was making plans for the programme to follow the dinner at which the Junior Institute of Anyville was entertaining the Senior Institute. Judith, the newly elected Junior President, was most anxious to carry out her duties as toastmistress smoothly and efficiently. The girls had held their first committee meeting today and now Judith was in a quandary over several points of order—but especially toasts. She knew that her Mother, a past President, could help her.

"At the last banquet I attended," Judith continued, "when the toast to the King had been proposed, no one seemed to know just what to do. Why, at our table alone, some stood at attention, some held their glasses up, some clinked glasses, some drank the toast before singing the National Anthem—and there was general embarrassment. The girls should like to know just what is right."

"Well," replied her Mother, "you, as chairman, will propose the toast. Your first question is when and how to do this? As soon as the guests have finished dinner, you will stand, wait for order and say simply, 'Ladies, the King'. There should be no introductory speech. By the way, who is the pianist for the evening?"

"Sally Tenor, of course. She plays so well and never lets the community singing drag."

"Then," said Mrs. Ellsworth, "as soon as you say 'Ladies, the King', everyone will stand and Sally will at once begin the National Anthem. It is not absolutely necessary to sing this, but it is customary, so I would ask your community singing leader to be ready to start."

"Yes, but what about the glasses?"

"Let's look that up to be sure we are right," answered her Mother. "Here it is. We were wondering about that some time ago in our Institute and, writing to Ottawa, were told that the guests should stand holding their glasses shoulder high while singing."

"The toast is always drunk after singing or playing the National Anthem then?" queried Judith.

"Yes, and, although for other toasts glasses are clinked before drinking, there should be no clinking of glasses for the toast to the King. This is such a common error. And, did you know, Judith, that at any banquet, there should be no smoking until the toast to the King has been drunk? This won't affect your banquet but we must remind John of that before he goes to

the banquet at the Agricultural College."

"How many toasts should we have, Mother?"

"Only one is essential—the King. If you wish more they are proposed in the following order—The King, The State, Institutions, and finally Personal Toasts. But I would not have many. You might have one to the 'Women's Institutes'. If you wished, you could ask your guest speaker, who, you say, is to be the District President, to make her address in reply to this. Then, since the local Senior Institute members are your guests, you might toast them. By asking Mrs. Wright, their President, to reply you give her an excellent opportunity to express thanks. But you can decide on whatever toasts you choose. Only don't forget what I told you before—that too long a toast list makes the programme drag."

"How will I introduce the toasts?"

"Do this in a variety of ways. One of the simplest is to state that Mrs. So-and-so will respond to the toast to the Anyville Women's Institute which will be proposed by Miss Someone. The proposer then proposes the toast. The responder, requiring no further introduction, rises immediately after the toast has been drunk. This is a simple and expeditious way to handle toasts. But when announcing a toast to which your guest speaker is to respond, you may just mention the name of the proposer. After the toast has been proposed and drunk, you may introduce the guest speaker or ask someone else to do this. It is a gracious thing to introduce the guest speaker briefly with a few words about herself and her fitness to respond to the toast."

"But, Mother, does the guest speaker always speak in reply to a toast?"

"By no means. She may be on the programme simply as a speaker. But a brief, friendly introduction is always in order."

Judith sat awhile, making notes, and thinking over her procedure. As she worked, she realized that there were still many questions to be answered. How should a toast be proposed? What should be said in reply? Should the responder know what the proposer will say? Who should stand to drink the toast? How will musical or other items be interspersed with the speeches? More and more questions crowded into her mind, treading on each other's heels. However, they would have to wait until tomorrow for she was to meet Mary in fifteen minutes. Tomorrow she would look for a book which would answer these questions and so would be able to help the girls at their next meeting.

NEW INSTITUTES FORMED DURING THE PAST YEAR

During the past Institute year, May 1, 1938, to April 30, 1939, the following local Institutes have been organized:

Table with 2 columns: Name of Institute, District. Lists new institutes like Green Lane, Sunshine, Norwich Juniors, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Name of Institute, District. Lists re-organized institutes like Ravenswood, Vittoria, Golden Gate, etc.

Re-organized

Table with 2 columns: Name of Institute, District. Lists Falkenburg, Muskoka South.

To the members of these Institutes we extend a hearty welcome, and offer congratulations. It is a good omen for the future of Ontario to find so many women sufficiently interested in contributing to the well-being of home and community life that they will join with the large number of Institute members already organized "For Home and Country".

To the new Institutes we wish every success in this new undertaking.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY THE PROVINCIAL BOARD

Resolutions as passed at the various convention areas throughout the province were presented at the annual meeting of the provincial board of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario in Toronto, November 1938, by Mrs. Harvey Harris, provincial convener of the Legislation and Resolutions committee.

The following were endorsed by the board and were sent to the departments concerned.

Hamilton area requested that the Union Jack remain the National Flag of Canada; that the Ontario government be asked to provide legislation to preserve and replace young wood lots; that there be legislation relating to pre-marital medical examination; that a province-wide referendum be taken re closing of beverage rooms or, failing that, that the government amend the Liquor Control Act withdrawing the amendment by which beverage rooms were opened in 1934. (This last resolution to be forwarded to the Ontario Temperance Federation).

Belleville convention area asked for legislation making impossible the operation of public dances or picture shows from midnight Saturday till 9.00 a.m. Monday.

London area was desirous of having the high cost of farm machinery lowered. Toronto area recommended that courses in Co-operation be made available to study groups desiring them.

Algoma convention recommended that the provincial government be asked to assist in the abolition of immoral literature. A resolution of appreciation, commending the government of Ontario for legislation regarding the compulsory pasteurization of milk, was presented from Fort Frances area. Listowel convention favoured a school for judges for Western Ontario similar to that of Eastern Ontario, for the purpose of establishing standards for judging at fairs.

Several resolutions presented were lost; some because legislation has already been enacted, and others because of their local nature.

A resolution from the provincial board endorsed the suggestion of the Hon. P. M. Dewar in his address at the luncheon hour, that the Institutes give leadership in the study of greater rural home beautification and weed control.

The Board recommended by resolution that directors contact county Educational Associations and through such organizations endeavour to have resolutions sent to the Ontario Educational Association, asking that courses, to train the teen-age youth to become careful and skilled drivers of motor vehicles, be incorporated with the practical mechanical training now in force in the secondary schools of Ontario; and that Institute members co-operate in the observance of all existing traffic laws and endeavour to help their families do likewise.

Mrs. Clarence Hayes, Georgetown, was appointed the new provincial convener of Legislation and Resolutions. Legislation reports should be in the hands of the provincial convener by October 1.

(Contributed by Mrs. T. J. McDowell, Milverton, Provincial Pres.)

(Continued from Col. 1.)

Are the problems discussed and the activities carried on up-to-date?

Is there something done during the year which is outstandingly beautiful or inspirational?

Above all, is every member given ample opportunity to contribute to the programme?

In one year there is time to accomplish only a few things. Instead of superficially dabbling into too many activities, how much better it is to set a few definite goals and attain these.