

PROVINCIAL BOARD MAKES RULINGS

The Provincial Board, representative of all sub-divisions and elected by the Women's Institute members, is an advisory council and clearing house for all Institute problems. It legislates in the interest of the rank and file member.

To supplement the Hand Book, several rulings were passed at the annual meeting last November and automatically came into force. They are listed below with the Board recommendations.

That copies of by-laws of constitution of conventions, other than those controlled by the Hand Book, should be sent to the provincial secretary, Mrs. W. B. Leatherdale, Coldwater, Ontario.

That district secretaries notify the provincial secretary when an Institute disbands or changes its name.

That once a provincial director has served her term on the Board, she may not return, even though she change her place of abode and might propose to come up from another sub-division. This is to clarify the intent of the Hand Book in regard to repeaters to the Provincial Board.

Necessary Credentials

That each federated representative be provided with written credentials from the district secretary stating if, or if not, all Institute federation fees have been sent to the provincial secretary-treasurer, and that the federated representative has the qualifications required by the Hand Book to act in that capacity—this written and signed statement to be brought to the convention by the federated delegates in the sub-division. The Provincial Federation will supply the forms for this statement.

That for federated representative to be eligible for Board Director for her sub-division, the district should have contributed its full financial quota, namely federated fees of ten cents per member of each Institute.

That, if the federated representative is not present in convention at the time of election of federated director to the Board, her account for transportation expenses will not be honoured.

Federated representatives shall be elected at a full district annual meeting; likewise, the alternate.

Time to Pay Fees

Federation fees — The Institutes should remit federation fees of ten cents (10c) per member to the district secretary, by February 1st, as new members entering later do not pay for the fiscal year. The district secretary should forward to the provincial secretary, on or before August 1st, the full financial quota at par, with lists of Institutes attached, showing fee distribution.

Junior Institutes are expected to join definitely with the seniors in forming the district, area and Provincial Federation.

All officers should accept office and work in only one district.

The Board recommends to the Institutes a greater use of the Travelling Libraries, secured from the Department of Education; to the Institute Branch, that subject matter pertaining to guidance in the study of child behaviour and family life be considered in the educational services of the extension programme; and, if possible, that the Dominion-Provincial courses for rural girls be continued.

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

LIFE MEMBERSHIP PIN

This pin is issued by the Provincial Board and orders should be sent to the secretary, Mrs. W. B. Leatherdale of Coldwater, Ont. Money orders or cheques should be payable to Mrs. Leatherdale. The price is \$1.35.

RURAL HOME BEAUTIFICATION

Beautification of the farm home grounds is not appreciated as much as it rightfully deserves. Why should we occupy substantial and often expensive rural homes, and give so little thought to the grounds surrounding them? Many a citizen gives a great deal of consideration to conditions within the home, believing that all who enter will pass judgment on neatness, cleanliness and furnishings, but pays little heed to conditions prevailing outside.

Members of Women's Institutes may render a wonderful service to Ontario by fostering a programme of beautification and lending support and encouragement to any scheme aiming at more attractive homes and countryside. Already, agencies are at work with the express purpose of encouraging a general toning up of rural sections and urban centres. We commend programmes that are being sponsored in Carleton, Northumberland, Haldimand and Lambton Counties, and urge each Institute to co-operate to the fullest extent in order to ensure success. We also endorse most heartily the scheme of the Farmers Magazine, Toronto, in fostering competitions to improve surroundings and living conditions on the farm.

It is recommended that each Institute adopt a simple programme, such as:

(a) That at least one spring meeting be devoted to consideration of this important matter.

(b) That the district feature a clean up day.

(c) That every member plant a tree to commemorate the visit of Their Majesties, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.

(d) That a tour be organized to visit a few well-planted farm homes, if necessary in a neighbouring township or county.

The following Ten Point Plan has been adapted by the Home Improvement Association of Haldimand County, with 31 organizations co-operating, representing a membership of 1,300. Already 19 meetings have been held throughout the county and this plan has met with a very favourable reception:

1. 1000 active members, each doing at least one thing toward the improvement of home grounds.

2. Clean-up Week. Second week of May. Each municipality will be asked to declare this week a special clean-up week and to facilitate matters by organized efforts to effect such clean-up.

3. Tree Planting. (a) Every organization and institution in county to plant one tree in commemoration of the visit of Their Majesties, King George and Queen Elizabeth. (b) Five trees to every school child in the county.

4. Prepare and distribute suitable articles of timely interest.

5. Investigate the sources and costs of materials, both planting and painting.

6. Establish ten demonstrations in rural school planting.

7. Competitions. (1) Home Ground Planning (Jr. Farmers and Jr. Farm Girls). (2) Essay (School Children).

8. Compile a general mailing list of interested persons throughout the county.

9. Hold two series of group meetings. Winter series, week of March 6th; Spring series, week of April 24th.

10. Establishment of a County Tree Nursery.

The First Step

The First Step in improving home grounds is clearing up the premises. If cleanliness is next to Godliness neatness and tidiness is a counterpart of this virtue. The work should be done early in spring and featured throughout the section. In this connection it is suggested that a practical lesson be taught at school by having the children co-operate in cleaning up the school grounds, followed by tree planting on Arbor Day, or other suitable time according to the district.

The Highway

The Highway provides the approach to the farm home and should be the second item of attention. No more suitable planting can be found than a series of fine trees planted at intervals of 65 to 100 feet apart, on the inside shoulder of the road and two feet from the fence. This not only helps the appearance of the home, but assists in highway beautification. Trees require time to mature and become the most permanent improvement on the landscape.

Entrances

Entrances we must have and pains should be taken to make them attractive since they give the whole place its characteristic first impression. The most simple arrangement at the gateway would be a single specimen shrub or evergreen on either side of the entrance. This may be enlarged by increasing the number to three, having each group arranged in the form of a clover-leaf, either inside or outside the gate, outside being most suitable if space permits.

The Driveway

The Driveway may be robbed of its ordinary appearance by bordering it with maple, elm, birch or oak, at regular intervals, to form in time a stately avenue. Evergreens may be substituted in the form of cedar, white or Norway spruce, to form a screen or windbreak.

The Foundation

The Foundation line of every home needs special treatment, as a softening of severe architectural lines must be secured, making the rigid and often unsightly foundation more attractive. The most satisfactory material to use is flowering shrubs to frame the home, melting it into the site and tying the building to the ground.

The Doorway

The Doorway is very important and a fitting framework should be provided. This is the one point toward which all owners, visitors, and tradesmen approach, hundreds of times in a year. Why should it be left unattractive, when a simple planting will completely alter its appearance? A choice of planting material may be found in evergreens, shrubs or climbers, placed on both sides of the doorway, and it is essential that two of the same variety be used, as this provides balance of harmony. Building on this initial planting the arrangement may be increased to two groups of three, in which case the shrubs may be of mixed varieties so long as the groups are similar.

In following out such a planting to include the front foundation line, the groups at the entrance may be duplicated at the corners, with low shrubs to connect the groups into a continuous planting. To maintain a harmonious effect, keep all tall shrubs to the rear, graduated to low material in front, endeavouring to prevent the plants from forming set rows. Avoid planting close to walls, or directly under eaves.

A few trees behind the house will effectively screen outbuildings and form a setting for the home, so that it appears as framed from the highway. Much of beautification is the blocking out of objectionable or unsightly objects, and this sometimes applies to garage, barn and poultry house.

The Lawn

The Lawn usually improves the farm home, especially when the largest area is directly in front and on one side of the house, permitting an open vista to the highway. A good lawn should never be spoiled by dotting single plants in a number of places, as shrubs should be grouped on the boundaries and at the entrance. This does not prevent the use of a good specimen tree, which may be planted in a prominent position.

The Perennial Garden

The Perennial Garden with suitable (Continued next Col.)

CANADIANIZATION OFFERS A CHALLENGE

"O Canada! Beneath thy shining skies

May stalwart sons and gentle maidens rise,

To keep thee steadfast!"—

In times like the present, when there is so much of upheaval and uncertainty throughout the world, it behooves us Canadian women to stand fast. We must stand fast in the knowledge that we are privileged to live in one of the greatest countries in the world. We must be steadfast in our loyalty to our governors, whether or not we understand why they take certain lines of action. We must think clearly and calmly, in order that we may make the right decision in any crisis which we may have to face.

"In Canada, dear Canada, all dwell in unity,

The Saxon-Gaul and Celt agree with Scot!"—

We have in our land people of many different nationalities, establishing homes, and raising families, under conditions entirely different from those existing in the lands whence they came. This is where our Institute women can make a real contribution in Canadianization. Help these people to adjust themselves to the new conditions; teach them the privileges that are theirs to enjoy as Canadians. Make them welcome to our homes and gatherings, and no doubt, "If danger chance to be", we will find all of our Canadians presenting a united front in any national emergency.

"O Canada! Where pines and maples grow,

Great prairies stretch and lordly rivers flow!"—

We have a country richly endowed with natural resources. Could we not study some of them this year? Our forests, mines, farms, fisheries, manufactures and water power are of vast economic importance. We should also become better acquainted with the beauties of our country. The stately St. Lawrence River, with its blue Laurentian hills and its quaint French villages; our many lakes and smaller rivers; our Rocky Mountains; and the firds of the Pacific coast provide a feast of beauty.

"O Canada! Blessed with the wealth of kings!"—

A great deal of which is ours to enjoy as we go about our everyday tasks! Let us, then, resolve this year to learn to know our wonderful land better than ever before.

(Contributed by Mrs. Edna L. Craven, C.B.E., New Liskeard, Ont.)

(Continued from Col. 3)

able bulbs and annuals, may be placed near the house to be visible from verandah and windows. The garden usually gives pleasing results when following the course of the drive. In this case the object is colour and brightening the scene. Select plants which produce bloom throughout a long season, coupled with hardiness of nature to withstand cold of winter and heat of summer. The arrangement of the border is simple. Tall plants are used freely in the rear to give a good foliage background and provide height. Medium plants are placed in the centre, and low materials in the front. The perennials may be strengthened with a liberal use of annuals in the front of the border, as they will flower until destroyed by frost.

Those interested in securing detailed information on any phase of beautification, or gardening, may secure same on application to the Horticultural Societies Branch, Ont. Department of Agriculture, Parliament Buildings, Toronto, or the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph. Many helpful pamphlets are also available from the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa.

(Contributed by John F. Clark, Ontario Department of Agriculture.)