

HOME and COUNTRY

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CONVENTIONS REVIEW AND PLAN INSTITUTE PROGRAMME

The keynote of every convention was the earnest desire of each member present that the Institutes should serve their country in the best possible way during the war. The Institutes pledged themselves to continue to accept their responsibilities for home and community life and, at the same time, to carry on special war efforts. All appreciated the action taken on their behalf by the Provincial President, Mrs. T. J. McDowell, in sending to the Premier of Ontario, and to the Federal Minister of Agriculture, an offer of the services of the Women's Institutes of Ontario in whatever capacity the Government may wish to use them.

The conveners of Peace and International Relationships felt their task a difficult one at this time, but emphasized that women should still hold the ideal of peace before their eyes, planning for peace so that they shall know what they wish to do when it comes.

Historically, the convention at Guelph was very interesting. The first Women's Institute convention in Ontario was held at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, in 1903, and now Subdivisions No. 8 and No. 9 have adopted Guelph as their permanent place of meeting. The convention was a happy one and greetings presented by early workers in the Institutes gave fresh inspiration, revived pleasant memories and brought to all a new realization of just what the Institute stands for. The hospitality for which the Ontario Agricultural College is renowned was much appreciated and the delegates enjoyed "residence life" for two days.

It being its 25th Anniversary, the London Convention celebrated this year, also. The ceremony of presenting a rose to past area officers was a pleasing feature, and reminiscences were in order.

Educational Features.

Round table conferences and discussions made one of the most valuable educational features of several conventions. At Guelph the topics for the conference were—Adult Education, Wellington County Historical Research Society, Girl Guides and Canada's First Folk School. One whole morning was devoted to this discussion and members were given every opportunity to participate. At Ottawa an open conference on the duties of the district director improved the understanding of this office. Discussions following reports were well conducted at several conventions, notably London, Barrie and Sudbury. At the larger conventions the scheme of round table conferences might be introduced, if delegates were divided into groups according to interest.

Activity in the field of Health and Child Welfare was everywhere apparent, with the emphasis always on preventive measures. Health was the topic featured at the Hamilton convention. Talks on cancer here and at other conventions helped dispel the fears which some people have towards this disease. Dr. Janet Lang's address stimulated interest in child health. She pointed out the necessity for wider distribution of baby incubators throughout the Province. A talk on the Associated Medical Services at Toronto explained this new method of financing medical care. At Cochrane, the convener divided the work of this committee into two phases, practical and educational, which proved a very satisfactory basis for presentation.

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GREETINGS FROM OUR NEW PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT



Dear Institute Members:

This year, in celebrating the twentieth birthday of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, it is fitting that we pay tribute to those who have contributed so generously and worked so untingingly, with heart and mind ever on "the common weal—the good of all mankind". It is indeed interesting to note the progress made, the friendships gained and the privileges which we have enjoyed through contacts with other countries.

The far-reaching influence of the educational and social benefits of the Women's Institutes throughout the world are unfathomable, and only through education can home and community life be improved.

As we enter on a New Year tense with anxiety, I would like to ask the Institutes throughout the Province to supplement the programmes for their monthly meetings with more social-material, that women will look forward to the cheery meetings as a bright spot where they may come for friendship and encouragement to help them carry the burdens which some are called upon to bear. Let us carry on calmly and efficiently, following the example of our King and Queen, ready at all times to meet the emergencies we may encounter.

As homemakers, let us be alert to the responsibilities which are ours in the furtherance of peace and good citizenship in our homes, our communities and our country. Individually, and as members of the Women's Institutes, let us make our motto "For Home and Country" one which will command respect, ever bearing in mind the high ideals and standards of our great organization.

Yours sincerely,

E. M. McDowell

Port Carling, Ontario.

HOMEMAKING CLUB ACHIEVEMENT DAYS

This year's Achievement Days have shown achievements of various kinds. There is the skill acquired in foods, clothing and housing, as seen in appetizing dishes and well-made garments and bedroom accessories,—not the expected skill of the much-practised housewife, but the newly-found, surprising skill of the beginner who has just learned to do these things and is receiving great pleasure in the accomplishment.

These club girls have achieved knowledge apart from skills that is making them more useful, more intelligent people. They know how to eat more wisely. They have learned to know good fabrics from poor and so get better value for money spent; they have learned how to make inexpensive bedroom accessories that help transform a room. They know how to work with other girls and how to conduct a meeting. Achievement Day shows they have learned so many things that at times one wishes it might be a longer day.

The demonstrations are usually a pleasure because of the way the girls present knowledge gained in club work, and are often a surprise because of the originality displayed and skill used. During some meat demonstrations recently, older women in the audience appeared a little surprised and much impressed by the girls' familiarity with this food which is a major problem to so many.

The most encouraging feature of club work this year has been the improvement in the standard of work exhibited. This was evident in many counties and is most satisfying to the Home Economics coaches. An example of this higher standard was the good design in clothing and house furnishings. There was much beauty of line and simplicity in ornamentation.

Inter-county days at the fairs were likewise successful. The attendance at the Canadian National Exhibition exceeded that of last year by fifty and at Ottawa there was an increase of forty-four. The chief values of these days are the contacts each girl makes with others and their work, as well as the new experiences of the day. At Toronto these contacts were especially valuable this year, as the improved accommodation outside the Exhibition grounds made it possible for all to see more club work.

Girls from Temiskaming came the greatest distance and possibly gained more than other club members from the whole experience.

As it is reviewed, it would seem that the Junior programme established and carried on in peace times has made a contribution toward fitting the girls and young women for the demands of war time when the resources of a country must be used wisely.

(Contributed by Miss L. Row.)

DOMINION FEDERATION CONVENED IN EDMONTON

The eleventh biennial meeting of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada officially opened at Edmonton on Thanksgiving Day. Premier Aberhart welcomed the delegates.

At the first session telegrams were sent to the Right Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King and the Right Hon. Neville Chamberlain, offering the services of the 73,000 Institute members to the Empire whenever and however needed.

The importance of the organization as a medium for war activity was stressed by Mrs. Alfred Watt, M.B.E., president of the Associated Country Women of the World, who was a guest at the biennial through the courtesy of the Dominion Government. Mrs. Watt pointed out that it is important that the ordinary life of the communities be carried on as usual.

A special committee was formed to work with Mrs. Watt to prepare a programme through which the Women's Institutes might render service to the Dominion Government. At the same time, the reports of the regular Standing Committees dealt with the value of the work of these committees in time of war. Stress was placed upon the use of natural resources in and around the rural home, the substitution of perishable products for products which could be exported, the need for extending a welcome to New Canadians, and the importance of sane legislation.

Youth Training.

The training of youth was emphasized in an address by Miss Bertha Oxner of the University of Saskatchewan. She noted the importance of girls' clubs in continuing the educational process. Miss Oxner listed some of the characteristics of adolescence as idealism, latent energy and eagerness to do things, and interest in life. Miss Oxner advised that girls be given an ideal—a well-balanced, wholesome individual able to make the most of her environment.

An account of the Triennial Conference of the A.C.W.W. held in London last spring, was given by the Dominion President. At that gathering there were 30 countries represented, and, while many speeches had to be translated, there were two things readily understood by all women, music and handicraft.

A feature of the banquet given by the Alberta Women's Institutes, in conference at the same time, was the graphic story told by Mrs. W. Stewart, president of the Alberta convention. Mrs. Stewart and her husband were rescued from the torpedoed Athenia. Mrs. Watt spoke of her visit to the Baltic countries a year ago and told how they were rejoicing at that time in their freedom.

Formal appreciation was expressed of Her Excellency The Lady Tweedsmuir's interest in the Women's Institutes of Canada and of her work in connection with the founding of the National magazine, *Canadian Home and Country*. All provinces were asked to support the magazine.

Rural Home Sanitation, the special study subject selected at the 1937 biennial, was again commended to all Institute members.

The invitation of the Hon. A. C. Taylor, Minister of Agriculture for New Brunswick, to hold the 1941 biennial at Fredericton was accepted. (Contributed by Mrs. T. J. McDowell.)

EDITOR'S NOTE—At the Biennial meeting reported above, Ontario was honoured in the appointment of Mrs. McDowell as first vice-president.