

HOME ECONOMICS AIDS IN WAR TIME

The Women's Institutes have a splendid opportunity to use their Home Economics programme to the fullest extent at this time. Are we not, as members of the Women's Institutes, in a very enviable position, having had the opportunity for the necessary training to assist the homemakers of our communities in the crusade for the conservation of food? Our programmes for the past years could not have been more fittingly planned had we been aware that the present crisis was going to be thrust upon us. When reviewing the Home Economics reports submitted for the Province, it is indeed reassuring to realize what a power the members of the Women's Institutes will be, if the need arises for the rationing and control of food, etc. The members have studied production, conservation and substitutions in foods, remodeling and making of clothing, uses of raw wool, making of cheese, bread, vinegar, soap and even fly-killing fluids. These projects have been not only studied but the best methods have been adopted and are being used continually across Ontario by a large percentage of our 42,000 members.

Study of Markets.

We might spend some time very profitably in studying marketing conditions. Let us take apples as an example. There are districts where apples are a luxury; others where they rot on the ground. Have the members a solution for this problem? The marketing of this surplus would be well worth studying by the areas concerned. Also, we can cultivate and encourage the use of apples in preference to oranges, grapefruit, etc.

Our classes in nutrition have taught us what to use as substitutes for meat, fats, etc., as fish, beans, macaroni, cheese. Chicken fat, with salt added, is closest of all the fats to butter. It is delicious for pastry and biscuits. Have you used it? It has been used in many localities for years. The methods and recipes given us for these substitutes leave little to be desired in the way of information. Never let it be said that members of the Women's Institute hoarded food or provisions of any kind. We do not want plenty at the expense of some one else.

The girls should be encouraged to remain on the farm or with their work in rural districts. This will leave the city positions vacant for the men rejected by the forces,—men who are very apt to be discouraged and need our help and understanding.

Carry On As Usual.

In the meantime, let us go forward with our Institute activities as usual: organizing and conducting the classes under the leaders' training scheme, acting as leaders in the girls' projects and sponsoring their work. This is, perhaps, one of the finest contributions we can make to our country at this time. We must keep up the standards of home. Perhaps the time is opportune to cultivate home life to a greater extent. We have become engrossed in so many outside interests that our home life has suffered. Many of these interests will necessarily be curtailed for the time being. Could we not extend our home pleasures?

We have a responsibility to our organization. The members of the Women's Institutes have always been noted for their sane outlook. We must not be found lacking in this quality. Neither must we be despondent, worried or fearful of what the future may bring, knowing ours is a just cause and that right will prevail.

We can best help our country by keeping up our standards of living, by production and conservation of food, by maintaining our pride in the Empire and not letting our old institutions fail. Doing and helping with that which lies at hand is not as glamorous as driving an army truck but it is just as essential. Thus "we serve" on the home front.

(Contributed by Mrs. J. K. Kelly, Almonte, Provincial Convener.)

The Members of the Provincial Board of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, 1939-1940



BACK ROW (left to right): Mrs. A. Fraser, Mrs. D. Z. Gibson, Mrs. C. J. Russell, Mrs. L. S. Eiler, Mrs. J. Thompson, Mrs. Ward Payne, Mrs. F. Fell.
 CENTRE: Miss Celia Synott, Mrs. E. L. Carter, Mrs. R. McDonald, Mrs. Thos. Scanlon, Mrs. T. L. Nickle, Mrs. John Lothian, Mrs. D. J. Stewart, Mrs. Wm. Hilliard, Mrs. L. Reesor, Mrs. Noble Perrin, Miss Isabelle Young.
 FRONT: Mrs. J. E. McLachlin, Mrs. W. B. Leatherdale, (Secretary), Miss Mary A. Clarke, (Superintendent, Women's Institutes of Ontario), Mrs. Ernest Duke, (President), Hon. P. M. Dewan, (Minister of Agriculture), Mrs. T. J. McDowell, (Past President), Mr. W. R. Reek, (Deputy Minister of Agriculture), Mrs. John H. McCulloch, Mrs. David Porter.

PROVINCIAL BOARD HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING

Time marches on! The Provincial Board enters its third decade of service. At the recent annual meeting of the Provincial Board of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, which was the occasion of its 20th anniversary, one of the highlights was a resume of the functioning of the Federation since its inception, presented by Miss M. V. Powell.

Guest speakers at the birthday luncheon included the Honourable P. M. Dewan, Minister of Agriculture; W. R. Reek, Deputy Minister, and the newly elected Provincial President, Mrs. Ernest A. Duke of Port Carling. Mrs. McDowell, presiding, took advantage of the presence of the Minister and the Deputy Minister to express appreciation of the fine spirit of co-operation which exists between the Provincial Federation and the Department.

Mr. Dewan urged the women to interest themselves and their rural young people in the short courses in Agriculture and Home Economics provided by the Department. Referring to the fact that last year he had stressed active interest in Farm and Home Beautification and Weed Eradication, the Minister thanked the Women's Institutes for their leadership and participation in campaigns and contests and urged that they continue this work.

Mr. Reek commended the Women's Institutes for their co-operation with other recognized organizations when working for a major objective. He paid tribute to Mrs. McDowell's tenure of office, particularly for her additional year of service. He congratulated Mrs. Duke on her election and the Board on its choice of president.

Mrs. Duke extended best wishes and hoped it would be her privilege to bring a contribution in service in keeping with the achievements of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario and to aid in maintaining their aims and ideals.

General approval was given the president's action, early after the declaration of war, in placing the services of our organization at the disposal of the Provincial and Dominion Governments to assist in any way during the national emergency. The Provincial Board decided to obtain registration under the War Charities Act for a central fund of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario and to solicit contributions from the Women's Institute members toward this. Mrs. E. Duke and Miss Mary Clarke, as joint conveners with Mrs. McDowell and Mrs. Leatherdale, (with power to add) were named to the committee for administering this fund.

Mrs. McDowell, in her presidential

address, extended a welcome from the Federation to all newly organized branches and particularly to the Juniors. Congratulations were extended to all directors and those who helped in the re-organizing of districts and convention areas.

The Board expressed their pride in Mrs. McDowell's appointment as first vice-president of the Dominion Board. Mrs. McDowell and Mrs. Duke were elected Ontario's voting directors to the Dominion Board.

In presenting her report to the Board, as Ontario's delegate to the Triennial Conference of the Associated Country Women of the World, held in London in June last, Miss Florence P. Eadie stated that she had been impressed by the akinness of homemakers throughout the world. She emphasized the desirability of active co-operation with country women by participation in special enterprises and study projects of the Associated Country Women of the World. Miss Eadie paid tribute to the contribution Mrs. Jean Atkinson had made, while resident in London, as the representative of Ontario Women's Institutes to the Associated Country Women of the World, and particularly to the part she had taken throughout the Conference as Ontario's second named delegate.

The Provincial Federation appreciated the sentiment of having Stoney Creek Institute members honoured by the placing of their names at the head of the list of members, through penny subscription, in the Million Membership scheme of the Associated Country Women of the World. The Board agreed to continue Ontario's affiliation through a definite yearly allocation.

The superintendent, Miss Clarke, in her address considered that the Institutes should strive to continue their educational programme curtailing it as little as possible but adapting it to the present emergency. Miss Clarke asked for the loyal support of the directors for the programme which the Department may evolve.

Mrs. Porter, on behalf of the present Board members and those who had served within the last four years, extended a vote of appreciation to the retiring president, Mrs. McDowell. Mrs. Carter presented to Mrs. McDowell a silver tea service packed with the love and good wishes of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario. Mrs. McDowell in thanking the directors assured them she would never forget their kindness, nor the friends she had made during her tenure of office; these friends she would treasure as her richest reward.

(Contributed by Mrs. W. B. Leatherdale, Secretary.)

AGRICULTURE AND CANADIAN INDUSTRIES

Agriculture.

In presenting a brief message on "Agriculture", may I quote the words of our Governor-General? "Speed the plough" should continue to be Canada's motto, said Lord Tweedsmuir, and added, "Agriculture has been, and always will be, the greatest asset of the Dominion".

It is the firm belief of the writer that the needs of the hour will suggest more efficient production methods and agriculture will likely see many new and novel practices introduced.

With one thought paramount in the minds of our loyal Canadian women—that of Conservation—our surplus apple crop is a problem that needs concerted attention. By eating Canadian apples, we help win the war on the home front.

To enumerate the varied lines of activity for which our Committee stands would take space, but I must not fail to mention just a few outstanding achievements of the past year.

In conjunction with the programme of Beautification, the Garden Club idea has swept the country like a flame and, with spring in the offing, farm, village and town alike will have groups of garden-minded workers.

The School Fair, popular as ever but much improved from an educational viewpoint by revision to conform more closely with the new school curriculum, and the development of Junior work are worthy of note.

The safeguarding of the forest resources adequate to the country's need is a service towards which all can contribute. In time of peace, it is a service which ministers to the popular enjoyment of God's out-of-doors. In time of war, it becomes a form of patriotism which no nation or people can afford to neglect.

Canadian Industries.

Canada is no longer dominated by the one great industry of wheat growing as in the war year of 1914. With wheat growing still a major industry great strides have been made in other branches in the intervening years—stupendous achievements in some particular lines as mining, forest products, fisheries and hydro development. And by virtue of the fact that our great Dominion has not even approached the limits of its productive power, we now stand in a foremost position to serve the British Empire and her Allies with our great wealth of products.

We are aware that the war has compelled Britain to turn more and more to Canada for supplies. Business in the heavy manufacturing industries is being helped by the large number of orders for munitions and supplies. In return, we are asked to help Britain pay for our goods by buying all the British goods we can. This we should do as a part of a common cause and to build for the future a trade we shall never lose.

In the limelight of recent date, there are the industries established in this country by refugee capital. This has meant the employment of thousands of Canadians, and the admission to Canada of skilled artisans to train Canadians in the technique of new industries. These people are a valuable adjunct to our country, and already it is reported that there exists a harmonious feeling between the newcomers and our own people.

The home industries, which women in their own sphere carry on so effectively, have lately been augmented with others particularly suited to meet the demands of the newer status of living imposed by war conditions, and to which our women are rapidly adjusting themselves and their homes in an admirable manner. There may be divided opinions as to what is our best method of service, but already, in a multitude of ways, the women of our ranks have made a definite contribution to the welfare of the Canadian people and, yes, to the British Empire.

(Contributed by Mrs. A. Manley, Finmark, Provincial Convener.)