

HOME AND COUNTRY

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

ELECTIONS REQUIRE THOUGHT

Spring has come again and, with the spring, all Institute members look forward to the District Annual meetings. What a pleasure it is to meet again, to hear what other Institutes have been doing, to greet old friends and to make new ones, to plan for the future, and to return home with inspiration for the coming year. In spite of the confusion and depression which the war must bring to us all, let us go forth with a firm purpose, with courage and with faith.

Let us continue with our educational work and with our community activities. Make the year's programmes bright, inspiring, cheerful and friendly. Strike a nice balance between special wartime activities and regular activities, doing the best for both.

With the District Annuals comes the election of officers. Are you making every effort to get the best brains and most conscientious workers to accept office in your district? Every office may be a stepping stone to a higher one. Every District President or Secretary, who has served at least two years is eligible for election as Federation Representative, who in turn is eligible for election as director on the Provincial Board. From these Board members your Provincial President is elected. In order to get your most able and representative members in the offices where they may be of supreme value to the Institute, careful choice of district officers cannot be overemphasized.

Look to your standing committee conveners, too. Is your own Institute convener exceptionally good in her field work? If so, would she not make a good district convener?

The election of officers is both your privilege and responsibility. Accept it.

THE HON. P. M. DEWAN SENDS A MESSAGE

We welcome the following message from the Ontario Minister of Agriculture:

Gladly do I extend greetings to the Institute Women of Ontario. I am quite aware that at no time of the year do Institute members relax in their commendable activities, but springtime probably provides opportunity for broader action than is feasible at other seasons.

In the ordinary course, everything that assists in elevating the technical and cultural standards of the people has received attention. Then, too, the immediate needs of the hour are not forgotten. With the war foremost in the minds of all our people, conservation of our foodstuffs from a household standpoint is, I am exceedingly glad to observe, receiving special attention.

More careful planning of farm operations in these critical days is imperative. Relative to this planning, I am confident that thoughtful and intelligent Institute ladies can give valuable aid to the men-folk of our farms. May I suggest that you help them to plan wisely and produce economically. May I also plead that you support grading and the building up of markets, through proper organization, for high quality products.

For the impetus you have given to farm home improvement and rural beautification, I am deeply grateful. Will you kindly continue your efforts to arouse interest toward a more beautiful countryside? And then, too, noxious weeds have gained a headway on our farms and roadsides far too great in this young country. Will you do your share to create a sentiment against these weeds that will put to shame those persons who neglect to destroy them? Rural beautification and weed eradication are two very worthy objectives.

Institute Ladies, for what you are accomplishing on behalf of our rural folk, I am truly grateful. More power to you in the days that lie ahead, and, as you go about your tasks, may the joys of the new springtime be with you!

THE CHAMBER OF AGRICULTURE

The attention of conveners of Agriculture and all other Women's Institute members is drawn to the growth of the Canadian Chamber of Agriculture. In Canada to-day there is a Canadian Chamber of Agriculture with a unit in every province. The Ontario Chamber is in turn composed of county units. These county units have been established in Peterborough, Essex, Middlesex, Oxford, Kent, Wellington, Simcoe and Lincoln and plans are under way for their establishment in Wentworth and Grey.

The Chamber of Agriculture is a federation of all farm organizations through which the farmers may speak with one voice, so that agriculture may take its proper place in the economic life of our country and in the formulating and promotion of agricultural policies to meet changing conditions. It is a federation which can embrace all rural organizations whether they be groups of men, women or young people. The constitution of the Chamber states that it shall not become a political organization.

For further study of this very timely topic, material may be obtained, on loan, from the Women's Institute Branch. Your Agricultural Representative will, no doubt, be glad to furnish you with information, and, if a county unit has been established in your own county, you will be able to secure first-hand information from that source. If you have not already read the article on "Women in Agriculture" by Miss Ethel Chapman in The Farmer magazine, February 1940, you will enjoy it.

ADULT EDUCATION MAKES PROGRESS

Mr. Donald McLean, President of the Adult Education Section, spoke of the convention held March 28th as the clearing house and mouthpiece of adult education within the Province. He remarked especially on the study groups and Chambers of Agriculture already set up in eight counties.

The former editor of "The Listener", Mr. R. S. Lambert, who conducts "Old Country Mail", said, in his address, that the three reasons for participation in Adult Education are (1) the political-social instinct,—the individual urge to improve childhood deficiencies and to become well informed, cultured individuals; (2) the practical motive—the desire to use it as a means of bettering oneself in the commercial world; (3) the entertainment motive—as a means of filling leisure moments. Effective agents of adult education are the radio and the movie assisted by the printed word. The war has called for readjustment in Adult Education, making it more an "anticipatory" education considering war and post-war problems.

A practical demonstration of a study circle on soils was presented by Rev. Ridd Elliott, Wellandport. He showed the value of pictures, printed material and group discussions.

Mr. Angus Mowat, Inspector of Libraries, said, "Education is schooling plus experience in living plus intelligent reading." Libraries promote adult education, not only by supplying material to adults, but also by training children to enjoy reading. The qualifications for a good librarian are an adult mind, an extensive book background, a grasp of the technical aspect: an individual who likes persons, is tactful and helpful. He emphasized the advantages of the County Library System now working in several counties.

Miss M. A. Clarke gave a report of adult education carried on by the Women's Institutes pointing out that, while war work cannot be neglected, home life must be continued as normally as possible. In discussion, it was said that the Women's Institutes of Ontario had begun and kept up more libraries within the province than any one other organization.

Mr. David Smith of Barrie outlined progress in dramatics in Simcoe County, and the Muskoka rehabilitation activity carried on during the past winter.

A committee was appointed to sponsor a series of radio broadcasts on Adult Education.

(Contributed by Mrs. Jas. Gordon, Beaverton, representative to the Adult Education Section of the Ontario Educational Association.)

THE LADY TWEEDSMUIR PRESENTED WITH ORIGINAL PAINTING

An original painting, "Winter in the Gatineau" by Frank Hennessey, O.S.A., A.R.C.A., has been presented by the Eastern Ontario Convention Area as a parting gift to The Lady Tweedsmuir who is a member of the Billing's Bridge Institute in that Area.

This gift is a happy choice, as The Lady Tweedsmuir is an admirer of the work of this artist. At a recent exhibit of Mr. Hennessey's pictures, after purchasing a picture, she expressed a wish for another picture to take back to her own home when she returned.

When making a choice, the purchasing committee felt that the gift should be typically Canadian in character and that, in selecting a painting, it should be a winter scene near Ottawa and the work of an Ottawa artist. The committee was fortunately able to meet all their objectives and "Winter in the Gatineau" will give The Lady Tweedsmuir continued pleasure.

NEWS FLASHES

Forest, Lambton Co.—Took a First Aid course as its War Emergency activity. Forty members attended the course which consisted of six lectures given by two local doctors. No charge was made by the doctors, but a small fee of ten cents per lecture was charged each person attending. A non-resident doctor presided for the examinations in which twenty students were successful. The Institute had something over \$20.00 to hand to the local Red Cross in addition to small recognition to the three physicians in appreciation of their services.

Staffa, Perth Co. — Conducted a "Who's Who in the Federation" as roll call. The reeve outlined the work of the township council and this was followed by questions and discussion. This made a fine meeting.

Rosetta, Lanark Co.—Undertook community beautification in the form of painting and lettering the rural mail boxes. The box owners cooperated in this by furnishing the labor, while the Institute provided the paint. The Institute secured and erected Motor League safety signs at the cross roads.

WILL YOU HELP?

Four bright eyed little refugee girls, 6, 7, 8 and 9 years of age, speaking English with no accent, arrived in Toronto recently with their parents. These pretty children are fortunate. In many cases, persecution and flight have meant the separation of members of a family. Hundreds, indeed thousands, of children were sent out of Germany alone and uncared for. What must have been the feelings of a mother who deliberately gave her child away without knowing to whom it went. The alternative—life in a community where democratic principles cannot be maintained—seemed to them the greater evil. They put their trust in the humanitarianism and Christianity of strangers and shipped their children off in faith. Can we evade that responsibility? England did not. She accepted 9,400 of them. German, Austrian and Czechoslovakian, Jew and non-Jew were taken into Great Britain. The cost of maintenance, food, clothing, shelter and education for each child is between four and five dollars a week, which means a total of about \$50,000.00 a week. Meanwhile, Great Britain's war expense mounts and the food supply decreases. Canada can help the refugees and at the same time help Great Britain by accepting a number of these refugee children. "Canadian women would be performing a gallant service, if they were to do so," Lady Reading said recently.

The Canadian National Committee on Refugees is making arrangements to bring a number of refugee children to Canada to be placed in foster homes. The children must be between the ages of 3 and 13. They will be accepted here as members of the family into which they are taken and will remain permanently, becoming Canadian citizens. Offers of foster homes and contributions of money for transportation and care are needed.

Then, there are the adult refugees and their families. England has accepted 20,000 permanently. There are 25,000 more there, temporarily. They must be settled in other countries. How many will Canada receive? Instead of taking jobs from Canadians, they may provide jobs. One refugee has rehabilitated an old lumber mill in British Columbia and now employs 200 Canadians.

There are other possibilities but space does not permit mention of these. Certainly, unprecedented opportunities are offered us and certainly Canadians cannot remain indifferent to the homeless, suffering "masses yearning to breathe free."

(Contributed by Miss Constance Heyward, Executive Secretary, Canadian National Committee on Refugees).