

HOME AND COUNTRY

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"HOME AND COUNTRY"

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This paper is distributed through the secretaries of Women's Institutes to the Women's Institute members.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

THE FALL CONVENTIONS

In these days of war, when none can foretell what changes a month, or even a week, may bring, the question naturally has arisen in the minds of some of our members, "Should we hold conventions this year?" This matter has been given careful thought and both the Federation and the Women's Institute Branch feel that, to-day, the conventions have a real purpose to fulfil.

Now, more than ever, the Women's Institute members need the interchange of thought, the opportunity to plan together, the wise counsel and the inspiration which the conventions can furnish. Those committees which you have chosen to plan your conventions have worked thoughtfully to develop programmes which will make a valuable contribution to the solution of the problems of Institute members in Ontario to-day.

Then, too, the very fact of meeting together to chat with friends and exchange cheery greetings helps us to keep our chins up. The Institute conventions have never been extravagant in their social features, but this year plans are being made to reduce these expenditures to a minimum, but without any loss of true sociability.

Have you a report to present as convener of a standing committee? Here is your golden opportunity to present not only the highlights of the past year's activities, but to emphasize the ways in which your committee can be of practical value in meeting to-day's problems.

Speaking at the district annual meetings in Eastern Ontario, Miss Lyla Calder, county coach, requested this contribution from the women for the girls work—"If you have knowledge, let others light their candles at it". Let this be true of conventions. Bring your knowledge, your wisdom and your inspiration; share these with others and both you and they will return enriched "to carry on".

PRAYER WITHOUT CEASING

Mrs. Alfred Watt, President of the Associated Country Women of the World, has broadcast to all members an appeal for 'prayer without ceasing'.

Every member, whatever her religious affiliation, is conscious of the faith which prompted this message and we can assure Mrs. Watt that the prayers of the members of the Ontario Women's Institutes will form a part of this chain.

"To the Country Women of America, Canada, and Other Lands:

I speak to you as President of the Associated Country Women of the World, to which most of you belong, to beg you to intercede with Almighty God in prayer without ceasing, until the black shadows pass from this, His world. I ask each of you to make your supplication known in all the temples of all the faiths you hold. I ask you so to plan, that, when you arise from your knees, there is another to take your place so that entreaty may be constant and there be a country woman chain of prayer in every land.

There are arising clouds of bitterness and hatred wherever there are agonized hearts and tortured lives, clouds which darken vision and obliterate hopes. It may well be that evidence of our faith will be a beacon light in the darkness of despair.

Country women, who live by the soil, view the miracle of seed time and harvest and the resurrection of growth, and they know that in God's purpose there has been renewal of life and continuity since time began. There will always be hope and new life for the stricken among our sisters and always prayer that they may live again on their own fields and see the rebirth of their own land.

You have chosen me as your leader through all these troubled years. We have rejoiced together and now we mourn together.

But I believe in prayer.

I beg each of you to be a living link in a chain of prayer which will keep together in spirit and in faith the country women of the world."

HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECTS

The Foreword

I am so glad to hear that the Women's Institutes of Ontario are going to compile village history books. Events move very fast nowadays; houses are pulled down, new roads are made, and the aspect of the countryside changes completely sometimes in a short time.

It is a most useful and satisfying task for Women's Institute members to see that nothing valuable is lost or forgotten and women should be on the alert always to guard the traditions of their homes, and to see that water colour sketches and prints, poems and prose legends should find their way into these books. The oldest people in the village will tell fascinating stories of what they remember, which the younger members can write down, thus making a bridge between them and events which happened before they were born. After all, it is the history of humanity which is continually interesting to us, and your village histories will be the basis of accurate facts much valued by historians of the future. I am proud to think that you have called them "The Tweedsmuir Village Histories."

Value of Books

May I suggest that this "Foreword", along with stories and pictures of The Lady Tweedsmuir and the late Lord Tweedsmuir, be included in your "Tweedsmuir Village History". The collecting of material and preserving historic records was a subject dear to the heart of our late beloved Governor-General Lord Tweedsmuir. In compiling these books we will not only pay tribute to his memory and honour The Lady Tweedsmuir, but will preserve in our own community the records of integrity, honesty and industry of our pioneers. These achievements of construction may well be worthy of our deep consideration and thought in these days.

A second project for Historical Research may be noted in the report of the Biennial Convention of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada, 1939, page 3, where all Institutes are advised to collect the six issues of the national magazine, "Canadian Home and Country", along with the report, and keep these in their archives, as a record of Women's Institutes History.

As we review and study together the stories of the past, may we be conscious of a new discipline of spirit to urge us on to a realization that we, too, have an important part to play in the destiny of our beloved country.

(Contributed by Mrs. L. Reesor, Provincial Convener, Historical Research and Current Events).

BUY WAR SAVINGS CERTIFICATES

The Government of Canada is urging all citizens to support Canada's war effort by buying War Savings Stamps and Certificates. Will you do all you can to promote their sale in your Institute and in your community? This is a true patriotic effort, second to none. The Government requires a continuous flow of money for this purpose to help finance the war. They ask us to 'Buy, buy and continue to buy'. Large and small contributions are alike acceptable.

In some districts, requests by the committee in charge are being made direct to the Institutes to promote this sale. For example, in Frontenac county the president of each Institute is acting as chairman of the committee in her own community for the sale of stamps. Speakers will be supplied within the districts to explain the undertaking. The Institutes will have a booth to sell stamps at the Kingston Fair.

A message from the War Savings Committee is being sent to all Institute secretaries with this issue of "Home and Country". It suggests the part which organizations and individuals may play in promoting the sale of Certificates.

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which has gained such a good reputation abroad. Surely Canadian cheese deserves more recognition in the land where it is produced. A tangible way, of course, to acknowledge its worth is to use it more freely in our homes. Butter and other animal fats are other dairy products which we should appreciate having in sufficient quantities to meet our needs. From the garden and orchard come a countless variety of fresh sun-bathed fruits and vegetables which we should use to advantage while they are in season. Potatoes are a year-around standby which we should keep right on using, for they rank high in the list of economical, nourishing foods. Eggs, too, deserve special mention, as do poultry and meats, all products of Canadian farms; while a word should be said also for honey and maple syrup. I repeat—should we not be thankful for the abundance and variety of foods produced on Canadian soil?

Prevention of Waste

It seems presumptuous on my part to draw the attention of Women's Institute members to the importance of preventing waste of foods. Practical home-makers like yourselves abhor waste and in times like these you will not only continue to practise carefulness and thrift in your own homes but will do your share in preventing waste of any foods which can be preserved in some way for future normal or emergency use. It is quite natural then to find homemakers busy carefully "putting down" the excess products from the garden and orchard in sealers or cans for use in the months ahead. Although it is impossible to predict the exact demand both here and abroad for Canadian foods, we can rest assured that any effort to make the fullest and best use of home-grown products will be a real contribution to our country.

A few months ago an appeal was made to Canadian housewives to use more apples. The reason for that appeal is, I am sure, familiar to you all. The important point is that you and other housewives answered that appeal and helped to relieve the abnormal situation. If similar appeals must be made to you from time to time, they will be made with the assurance that your fullest co-operation will again be forthcoming.

Thus Canadian women play their part and will continue to do so with a steadfast purpose, for back of it all is an earnest desire to serve Home and Country.

(Contributed by Miss Laura Pepper, Chief Consumer Service, Dept. of Agriculture, Ottawa).

Among the many interesting and valuable ideas presented last year in the reports on Historical Research and Current Events, was one which appears to be of such outstanding worth that it is hereby suggested that, if possible, it be included in the programme of work of every Institute.

The idea originated with The Lady Tweedsmuir, wife of the late Lord Tweedsmuir, Governor-General of Canada, who, in one of her frequent visits to Women's Institutes, suggested that the members might enjoy compiling "Village Books", as do the women of England and Scotland. A practical suggestion from another report seems the perfect answer as to methods of procedure. This is it.

Buy a large, loose-leaf note-book. Distribute a few pages to each member, asking her to write the story of her home, her family, farm, church, school, or of other places of historical interest in the community. To these add snap-shots, sketches, news clippings. Include stories of local current events and of outstanding national occurrences.

This book will be the property of your Institute and should be kept with other records of the Institute. Additional information should be added each year. Make your book as interesting and artistic as possible. Have an exhibit of these books at your next district annual and two or three of the best might be sent on to your area convention.

Tweedsmuir Books

Since the idea of the Village Books originated with The Lady Tweedsmuir, the Secretary of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, Mrs. W. B. Leatherdale, was instructed to ask the consent of The Lady Tweedsmuir and to invite her to select a name and to write a foreword for our books.

The gracious reply of The Lady Tweedsmuir follows:

Elsfield Manor,

Oxford, England, May 11, 40

Dear Mrs. Leatherdale:

Thank you so very much for your very nice letter. Yes, indeed, my husband was always interested in Women's Institutes and thought so highly of the work you are all doing. I think it would be very nice if you call the books you are compiling "Tweedsmuir Village Histories". I will send you a little message as a foreword, with great pleasure. I am always interested to hear what the Women's Institutes are doing.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Susan Tweedsmuir