

GLEANINGS FROM DISTRICT ANNUALS

This year, those in attendance at the district annuals could not refrain from making comparisons with the conventions of a year ago. Then, the question on each one's tongue was, 'Did you see the King and Queen?' All thoughts of war had been driven out of our minds by the Royal Visit. This year, the meetings were held when war clouds seemed dark and, from day to day, the atmosphere of the meetings reflected the war news. Whether this news was good or bad, the strong feeling was always evident that, as Canadian citizens and members of an organization whose motto is 'Home and Country', the members should face their responsibilities with courage and optimism and do all in their power to help win the war.

Typical of this spirit was the spontaneous response made by the many districts to the call of the Red Cross Society for blankets. Presidents' addresses were thoughtful, Board members spoke of contributions made through the Central War Charities Fund and outlined suggested opportunities for service. Institutes reported their special wartime activities. These reports showed excellent work being done.

Accompanying this interest in war work was the continued enthusiasm for regular Institute activities. Members were urged to retain interest in educational programmes and social features and to continue their feeling of responsibility for the improvement of Agriculture and farm living and for community welfare.

Officers Active

Congratulations are extended to those conveners who not only reported the past year's activities, but gave suggestions for the coming year. For example, the convener of Education in Addington suggested that each Institute sponsor a contest in the school on weed control. This was a fine response to the request of the Seeds and Weeds Branch, Ontario Department of Agriculture, for vigilance in weed prevention.

Congratulations are extended, too, to those district presidents who gave time and thought to their presidential messages. There were many of them. The writer would like to mention the presidents of East York, North Grey and South Perth, about whose contributions many favourable comments have been received.

Meetings Well Conducted

Good parliamentary procedure contributed to the success of meetings—North, South, East and West. In North Bruce, the attendance, spirit and businesslike conduct of the meetings should be a source of pride to all. And Welland county must be gratified to have this report, 'A business meeting conducted like a business meeting.' Much of this efficient conduct is due to the presiding officers and in North Oxford, North and South Lanark, among others, the officers took charge of their meetings with ease and efficiency.

There are still a few districts where the programmes are too full and where little attention is paid to time. These are becoming fewer. Question boxes were used to excellent advantage in some districts. In Halton, the discussions resulting from this method were very helpful.

No attempt has been made here to write of conveners' reports. The highlights of these will be given at the conventions.

TORONTO CONVENTION AREA PLEASE NOTE

Mrs. James Gordon of Beaverton has accepted the position of convener of war work for the Toronto area. Will you please see that your district sends a report to Mrs. Gordon before the convention.

COMMENDABLE HOMEMAKING CLUB LEADERSHIP



GREY COUNTY LOCAL LEADERS AT ACHIEVEMENT DAY.

East, West, North and South throughout the Province, most commendable local leadership has been given the 1939-40 girls' homemaker clubs.

The Grey county had the largest Achievement Day with 145 club members exhibiting and judging.

News Flashes from the Institutes

Sprucedale, Parry Sound District.—Selected legislation for a study topic, and discussed trapping laws in addition to other phases. From this branch comes the story of development through their meetings.—'We find our programme has helped us to be better women, to have more interest in our schools, and to give help and encouragement to our teachers. We take more interest in planning balanced meals and also in keeping ourselves informed on world affairs in general. We help to safeguard the health of the children by having teachers watch for the delicate child to whom we supply cod-liver oil if the parents are unable to do so.'

Bethel, Lanark Co.—Had papers dealing with the Maple Products Act. This study was enlightening as some members were unfamiliar with points which were made clear.

Innisville, Ferguson's Falls and MacDonald Corners, Lanark Co.—Participated in drama festival in the district.

McIntyre, Thunder Bay District.—Held a Scottish meeting featuring educational pictures of Scotland, Scottish music and readings, to which the community was invited. A large attendance evidenced the interest.

Bayham, Elgin Co.—Presented the selected monthly topic 'Education' in an unusual way. Following the roll call, which was information relating to 'my first school', a discussion was held. For discussion, slips of paper were passed with headings upon which the members were asked to speak. The headings were: 1. Do you approve of dispensing with formal spelling in the public school? 2. Do your children dislike school more since the introduction of the new system? If so, what is the reason? 3. Is it fair to graduate musicians to have music taught in the schools? 4. Harmfulness of parents speaking ill of a teacher; who is most harmed?

After the discussion the speaker for the day addressed the meeting on the natural education of the preschool age child.

Wolfe Island, Frontenac Co.—Had an interesting debate, "Resolved that The Sports Page of the daily newspaper is of more benefit to the public than the Woman's Page". The judge's decision gave the victory to the affirmative.

Sharbot Lake, Frontenac Co.—Has a current events scrap book to which members contribute their findings. One member compiles the events of interest.

Canboro, Haldimand Co.—Studied education under four headings: Why Educational—Movies, Picnics, Dances, Radios. (A district programme topic).

York Road, Northumberland Co.—Participated in the Buymanship School. Following the leader's presentation of the story, the members report that they are developing greater interest and becoming more intelligent shoppers, better qualified to buy better clothing with a smaller financial expenditure.

Malton, Peel Co.—At each meeting, which is held in a private home, the history of the home is given. These records are being compiled and will become the theme for historical research for the year. This has resulted in members digging up history revealing interesting and valuable facts.

Camilla, Dufferin Co.—Is interested in good literature. One meeting furnished a fine address on "Books for Children" and a member gave a synopsis of a book by a named author. The Institute is studying famous authors.

Caledonia, Haldimand Co.—Had a profitable quarter. The members held a reception for the school teachers, a timely event, and had as the topic for the month 'Character Building'. Another meeting featured a musical which included carols, trios, violin solos. A seasonable topic was presented by a minister. This Institute buys milk during the winter months for undernourished children. Increased membership is noted since the participation in War Emergency Work.

Thistleton, York Co.—Following an address on Music Appreciation has formed a choral society which meets each week for voice culture and study.

Altona, Ontario Co.—Featured "Better English" and "Reading" at a monthly meeting with the result that a study group was formed to improve the spoken English and to give direction to good reading.

McIntyre, Thunder Bay Dist.—Was instrumental in securing a needed supply of Cod Liver Oil for use in local schools. This was furnished by the local Board of Health. This Institute also made a study of Department bulletins dealing with the food value of apples and cheese.

Avening, Simcoe Co.—Concentrated for four months on health education. The following items were included: accident prevention, worry and disease, stuttering, teeth, colds, feet, drugs and their uses.

Jubilee, Frontenac Co.—Formed a study group with three leaders to study and report conditions in other countries. Topics dealt with were New Zealand, Finland, The League of Nations, and Should Canada admit refugees? A Round Table discussion was led by a member of Queen's University Staff.

(Continued next Col.)

OVERSEAS LETTER FRIENDS

We are happy to report that, since the last issue of Home and Country, correspondence has been established as follows:

Scotland. Each of nine Scottish Institute secretaries has been provided with a letter friend in one of the following districts,—Thunder Bay, Kenfrew North, Lincoln, Ontario South, Grey North, Leeds South, Rainy River West, York West and Norfolk North. Three other Scottish secretaries are awaiting acceptance from Institutes in the counties of Middlesex, Welland and Addington. Ontario is waiting for pen friends for the Homemaking Clubs of Perth county and for four Institute members in Northumberland county.

Prior to 1940, correspondence had been established between Institutes in Scotland and Institutes in York, Simcoe, Haldimand, Middlesex, Peel and Lennox counties.

Australia. Contacts are particularly interesting because the Australian 'Younger Sets' are asking for Canadian letter friends. New contacts have been made with three junior Institutes in Temiskaming, York and Prince Edward counties. Five requests are waiting acceptance and five have been definitely placed since the beginning of the year.

England. That Institutes in England desire contacts with Canadian Institutes is evident from the number of requests received. Seventeen new pen friends have been placed with Ontario Institutes. Eleven others are being taken care of almost at once.

Wales. One Institute in North Wales has been assigned a letter friend in Ontario county.

Lithuania. Of special interest is the establishment of correspondence with Lithuania. The Ontario correspondent is located in South Waterloo and the overseas letter friend is the president of the Federation of University Women of Lithuania.

Total Overseas Letter Friends

	Old	New	Total
England	18	28	46
Scotland	6	18	24
North Wales		1	1
Lithuania		1	1
New Zealand	32		32
Australia	17	13	30
South Africa	4		4
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Harrowsmith, Frontenac Co.—Arranged essay and poster contests for children to promote the care of wild flowers.

Yarker, Colebrook, Addington Co.—Enjoyed a study of music under the convener who holds an A.T.C.M. degree. The roll call, papers and selections of music centred around the composer Schubert and his works, making the meeting both cultural and pleasant.

Almonte, Lanark Co.—Had a special address on Art which stressed the choice and suitability of pictures in the home. This aroused a consciousness of the value of pictures and their proper arrangements.

Vars, Russell Co.—Recognized in the lack of local medical practitioners a community need and secured a doctor in the near-by community to devote one half day per week to the health needs of the village.

Quinte Branch, Hastings Co.—Utilized the services of the district convener of Canadian Industries to present the story of the manufacture of beet sugar, following her visit to the "sugar refinery". Macaroni, dates and raisins were also discussed. This branch calls upon other district conveners for information.