

## HOME AND COUNTRY

Published quarterly by  
The Federated Women's Institutes  
of Ontario  
and  
The Women's Institute Branch  
Department of Agriculture  
Ontario

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

## EDITORIAL COMMENT

## THE PROVINCIAL BOARD

May we take this opportunity to extend sincere congratulations to the recently elected members of the Provincial Board and to assure them of the support of the members of the Women's Institutes of Ontario. To these women has been given one of the highest honours which the Institutes can bestow and members now look to them for guidance.

The twenty members of the Provincial Board are the elected representatives for the twenty subdivisions of the Province. They bring to the Board meeting in November the problems, resolutions and views from Kenora in the west to Glengarry in the east and from Cochrane in the north to Essex in the south. There Institute problems are discussed and, if deemed advisable, action is taken. Thus, the Board serves as a link between all parts of the Province.

The Provincial Board takes action in matters of policy affecting the Women's Institutes of Ontario. It co-operates direct with the Women's Institute Branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture. It is a channel through which contact is maintained with Institutes of other provinces, the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada, the Associated Country Women of the World and other dominion and international organizations.

To-day, the problems which confront the Board are increased because of the added responsibilities created by the war and the desire to serve in the best possible way.

The experience which the Board members gain gives them a broad understanding of Women's Institute work, which can be of inestimable value to the districts which they represent. As your representatives, the Board members are responsible to you; in turn, you are responsible to them. Through a mutual understanding and co-operation, may the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario grow in service to its members.

## INSTITUTE CONVENTIONS ARE VALUABLE

This general review of the conventions to date is being written at the close of the Ottawa convention, October 11. Attendance at these conventions has, in every case, sent the members home with the strong feeling that the conventions have justified their existence this year. They have given assistance with both large and small problems which Institute members must face, and have provided fresh inspiration and renewed enthusiasm to continue to work for the ideals for which the Institutes stand.

The Ottawa area convention reached a new record of attendance this year. Kingston, for the first time, held its meetings at Queen's University where the atmosphere of the University and the generous assistance of the Extension Department contributed much to the success of the convention. Belleville and Englehart are to be complimented for the opportunities for discussions and the fine participation of the members in these discussions. Guelph convention took as its theme 'Our National Responsibilities' and carried it out well. Rainy River convention was a very practical one. Englehart area is very 'Health conscious'.

Naturally, special wartime activities were discussed at all conventions and all Women's Institute members are enthusiastic workers. Mrs. Ernest Duke, Provincial President, made an appeal for contributions to the Central Fund of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, so that a sum may be obtained which will allow the Federation to make a substantial contribution to Canada's War Effort. This appeal met with enthusiastic approval everywhere and it was felt generally that this should be a gift from the Institute members themselves to their own Fund, rather than one collected from non-members by special money raising schemes. Besides having an appreciation of the value of such practical assistance as the above gift, jam-making, comforts for refugees, knitting, sewing, sale of war savings stamps and other tangible contributions, the members, remembering that theirs is an educational organization, do not forget the more intangible ways in which Institutes may serve. These were emphasized in talks given by Miss M. A. Clarke, Provincial Superintendent, and others, who appealed to the Women's Institute members to use their influence to mould public opinion, to create clarity of vision of the fundamental ideals for which Canada is at war, to keep up morale, and to assume their responsibilities as intelligent citizens not only to help win this war but to prepare for the social, political and economic changes which the war must inevitably bring. As Mrs. Alfred Watt, President of the A.C.W.W., said 'The new world will be what we make it ourselves'. Mrs. Elizabeth Hammond, Women's editor 'Family Herald and Weekly Star', spoke on this theme too, pointing out that, although rural women are busy women, they have unparalleled opportunities for thinking in quiet surroundings.

The Hon. P. M. Dewar, Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, speaking at Guelph and Ottawa, commended the Women's Institutes for their support of agricultural interests in the past and requested its continuance. He encouraged the study of such modern problems of agriculture as co-oper-

ation and emphasized the importance of high standards of home life and the education of youth.

The outside speakers at the conventions brought worthwhile messages. Dr. J. B. Reynolds, in a very thoughtful address at Belleville, compared the contributions which the Victorian era has to leave to posterity with those of the twentieth century. He spoke of the last century as the day of the pioneer when new lands were opened, new inventions and new scientific discoveries made and a fine literary heritage passed on for the inspiration of succeeding generations. Dr. Reynolds felt that the most valuable and inspiring thing which 1940 can leave will be the memory of brave deeds, of courage and steadfastness and willingness to die for their ideals being shown by the British Empire's young aviators, sailors, soldiers and civilians.

Dr. Hanna Fischl of Prescott told the story of her native land, Czecho-Slovakia, and its development under Masaryk in cultural, social and economic fields. Her story made us all realize what the world lost when Czecho-Slovakia was broken up.

Miss Laura Pepper, whose article in the Summer 'Home and Country' has been widely read, gave a very practical outline of the work of the Consumer Service Branch of the Dominion Department of Agriculture, and its value to the consumer.

Prof. W. M. Drummond of the Ontario Agricultural College, in a talk in which he emphasized the facts which must be faced in relation to the economic conditions affecting agriculture, stated that this is no time to emphasize the need for greatly improved economic position, but that, to win the war, farmers must make the best use of available income and ask themselves if they are willing to sacrifice economic gain for freedom.

The work of the Homemaking Clubs met with approbation everywhere. Since much of this issue is being devoted to junior activities, we shall only call attention to it here to commend the girls and their leaders for their creditable achievements and the Institutes for their support of this work.

Standing Committee reports were varied, but in general they showed that the conveners and their committees are realizing that present day conditions are a challenge to them; that, unless the work of these committees is made practical and up-to-date, they are failing in their objectives.

Many are the practical hints available from these conventions; such as the motion passed at the Kingston convention that, immediately after the district annual meeting, the district secretary should send copies of all resolutions passed at that meeting to her convention area secretary so that they may be enclosed in the letter from the convention area secretary to each Institute secretary. Then each delegate may go to her convention prepared to vote on matters of importance as directed by her Institute.

As Mrs. Wood, chairman of the Ottawa convention area, said 'The annual conventions are parliaments of women assembled to discuss problems which are as important in their own way as are the deliberations of Parliament assembled in Ottawa in theirs'.

## LISTEN TO THESE BROADCASTS

A series of six broadcasts on Democracy and Citizenship, designed for the average man and woman, is being offered by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation in co-operation with the Canadian Association for Adult Education and the Institute for International Affairs on Wednesday evenings at 10.30 E.D.S.T., or 9.30 E.S.T.

October 16th	- - - - -	"How Did We Get That Way?"
October 30th	- - - - -	"How the Wheels Go Round."
November 13th	- - - - -	"Freedom—For Whom? To Do What?"
November 27th	- - - - -	"Economic Security—Is It Possible?"
December 11th	- - - - -	"Can We Make Good?"
January 15th	- - - - -	"Why Plan for the Future?"

Supplementary material relating to each broadcast is available. It can be obtained by individual listeners and by secretaries of listening groups. Send your requests to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Box 500, Toronto. Single pamphlets relating to individual broadcasts—10c. Complete set of study material for the series—50c.

FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES SEEN THROUGH  
"THE SHOW WINDOW OF THE NATION"

The Ontario Women's Institutes for more than forty years have carried on a programme of national service to Canada, much of which may have escaped the notice of many of her citizens. At the Canadian National Exhibition this year, the Women's Institutes with some 29 other women's organizations, representing church, social service, educational, professional and business groups, exhibited in the Women's Building "Canadian Women's Work in War and Peace".

## Peace-Time Programme

The peace-time programme of the Institutes, which has been planned to enrich and meet the needs of the rural community life, was explained by posters outlining the organization of the Federated Women's Institutes, the regular educational, social and welfare activities and the services available from the Women's Institute Branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture. Department bulletins outlined services and furthered the use of Canadian foods for nutrition and better health of the nation in war-time.

## War-Time Activities

Organized as the Institutes were for peace-time needs, a wider field of service was undertaken upon the outbreak of war. By posters and sample articles, this work was illustrated—the story of the thousands of knitted goods and sewn garments supplied to the Red Cross or other authorized channels, for soldiers, hospitals or civilian victims of war; the recreation room furniture sent to Camp Borden; money contributed to the War Charities Fund of the F.W.I.O., the tons of jam made for Canadian hospitals overseas and evacuated civilians in Britain; the promotion of the sale of War Savings stamps and voluntary services to Y.W.C.A. hostess houses were among those exemplified.

Visitors were all arrested by the display of jam and were unanimous in their commendation of this activity. Soldiers from the Camp Borden Training Centre told of their appreciation of the furniture. Seven hundred and fifty three persons requested literature and some two thousand and forty three pamphlets were mailed.

## Interested Visitors

Through the kindness of some eighty Institute members, two representatives were on duty at the exhibit at all times during the fourteen days. They report many interesting contacts and stories of tributes paid by visitors from other countries to the Women's Institute movement, Canada's gift to the world. A resident from Forest Hill Village, who has come from Wales, told of attending with her mother the meetings of the Triennial Conference of the A. C. W. W. in London last year and of meeting the Canadian delegates. When she expressed her appreciation of the work, she was amazed to be informed that the movement originated here. Arrangements are being made to have this lady welcomed by an Institute near Toronto. Another guest from overseas was Mrs. Franklin Hutchins of New Zealand who would welcome an opportunity to meet and speak to Institute members.

The exhibit has brought new members to the Institutes and several women, who had been former Institute members, were so impressed by the exhibit that they were returning to their communities to become members again.

Participation in this enterprise, which has brought rural and urban women's organizations into closer relationship with each other, showed 3,500,000 Canadian women united in a common cause to express their loyalty and combined activities for the promotion of "Canadian Women's Work in War and Peace".

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