

## SPECIAL WARTIME ACTIVITIES

Replies to the last questionnaire are just beginning to come in to the office and a record of special wartime activities will be included in the next issue of "Home and Country". The following special items are worthy of note:—

To date 51,000 lbs. of jam have been shipped to England from the Red Cross Warehouse in Toronto.

Central Fund F. W. I. O.—Continued support is needed to enable the Federation to make a substantial contribution to Canada's war efforts.

Comforts for W. A. T. S.—(See Summer "Home and Country")—These may be sent to Miss Mary A. Clarke, W. I. Branch, Parliament Buildings, Toronto, Ontario.

## ENGLISH INSTITUTES CARRY ON

A letter written August 27th by Mrs. Charles Russell, Letter Friend Secretary, National Federation of Women's Institutes, England, tells of the activities and courage of English Women's Institutes even at the time when the bombing of England was becoming very serious. Part of Mrs. Russell's letter follows:

"We have had quite a strenuous time here these last ten days again, after a short spell when things were quieter, and London is now receiving the attention of the Nazis. Last night we were six hours in the shelters, although a great deal of the time there seemed to be nothing going on. Previously we were quiet here in London, and it seemed extraordinary to be sitting working in complete peace, with normal activities going on all round, when one knew that there were tremendous air-battles only such a few miles away. It has been a great help, of course, to the mass of the people to realise that our defences are so good, and they are standing up to it magnificently.

Our members in the country have had a very great deal more to put up with, of course, and are facing it with the greatest calmness and courage. Single planes or small numbers can slip through where we are less heavily defended. It is very heartening to go to a monthly meeting, as I do fairly frequently, and I am thinking of one in particular in my own county of Essex. (I am an elected member of the Essex Federation Executive Committee, and also a V.C.O. for that county). I was speaking at a Women's Institute monthly meeting the day after they had suffered an air-raid. It was hard to realize that these women, of whom there were about sixty, had been up practically all night. They were taking a lively interest in their business and gave close attention to my talk. I left them playing games in a garden in their social half hour, oblivious, apparently, to past raids or those to come. As a matter of fact, they had another that night.

The member who walked away with me when I went to catch my train, and whom I asked if she had had a very disturbed night, replied:

"Oh, we had to get up and sit in our shelter until it quieted down, but I expect we shall have plenty of that to do now."

Of course I could multiply such tales quite easily from all over the country. The members are splendid."

## EAST YORK WINNER IN KNITTING MARATHON

The knitting marathon, in which fourteen organizations participated, was another popular feature on three different days. The thanks of the Federated Women's Institutes are extended to all those Institute members who so willingly took part under the con-overship of Mrs. J. H. McCulloch, R.R. No. 2, Brampton. The Women's Institutes represented by members from East York were awarded the first prize on the first day of the competition.



A recreation room at Camp Borden, showing furniture contributed by the Central Fund, F.W.I.O. For description, see summer issue "Home and Country".

## News Flashes from the Institutes

**Pine Grove, Renfrew Co.**—Selected the making of aeroplanes as the topic under Canadian Industries at one of the recent monthly meetings—a very timely theme.

**Atwood, Rainy River Dist.**—At each meeting, one member presents helpful items from one of the food lesson leaflets. Already salads, fruits, eggs and milk have been presented, and the members find this plan an excellent way of obtaining information.

**Shenston, Rainy River Dist.**—Is doing its part in emergency service in spite of the fact that the members have little time to knit. Donations of wool have been made, including the saving of old woollens and the whole fleeces of virgin wool to be made into blankets for National needs.

**Ailsa Craig Jr., Middlesex Co.**—Had a fine meeting on Education featuring a recent publication on travel "North to the Orient". This book was introduced by the convener of the committee on Education and its study proved of much interest.

**Iderton Jr., Middlesex Co.**—Studied legislation through a word picture descriptive of a "session of Parliament". A former Institute president gave a full description of the proceedings of a sitting of the Legislature.

**Lakeview, Northumberland Co.**—Combined pleasure and profit. A well attended flower show provided pleasure and aroused keener interest in the cultivation of flowers for both indoor and outdoor use. Funds were added to the treasury by means of the 'talent' plan through which an investment of \$3.75 brought a return of \$14.40.

**Percy, Northumberland Co.**—Rendered acceptable assistance to the local public library by holding a meeting at which each member donated a book.

**York Road, Northumberland Co.**—Is now practising newer methods of meat cookery learned through the training school. "The knowledge gained from one lesson has greatly assisted the consumer in a wiser selection of the different grades and the proper preparation of the meats," writes the secretary.

**Dawes Road, York Co.**—Has planned a fine group of activities for the year which includes the making of a 'Village Book', the study of home economics and child welfare, and the providing of comforts for the local men on National service. In addition to these activities, social features will centre around school and community life. An Institute Birthday Party, marking the 10th anniversary, brought together for social enjoyment old and new officers and members and lent itself to a review of accomplishments for "Home and Country".

**Highland Creek, York Co.**—Benefitted by a study of the Chinese people—their customs, habits of living and mode of travel. This was accom-

panied by a display of craft work of the women of China, all of which made fine international study.

**Perth Road, Frontenac Co.**—Reviewed county and township history by naming a county event in answer to the roll call, and through the presentation of a paper dealing with early settlers and places of the township. This was informative for citizens of the present day.

**Bright, Algoma Dist.**—Reviewed the Whole Wheat project taken three years ago, since which time the members have continued the use of whole wheat flour. A contest was staged using whole wheat buns. Incidentally, the assistant local leader won first place, with the leader as judge of the product.

**Sunny Slope, Parry Sound Dist.**—Milk and Its Value was used as the theme for a monthly meeting. Information was presented in a talk and through the reading of a paper on the subject. Following this, milk and cheese leaflets were distributed to the members. This meeting was planned by the convener of Agriculture.

**Marburg, Norfolk Co.**—Made practical application of information given in book or bulletin "Insects in our Economy". The subject was dealt with by an entomologist and as a result, three schools are receiving the Canadian Nature Magazine for two years, the gift of the Institute.

**Cochrane, Cochrane Dist.**—Has been instrumental in establishing fine racial co-operation. Long standing barriers have been broken down and all members are working together for better practical and cultural values in homemaking. Health, interior decoration, clothing and literature, all are being carefully studied by this Institute.

**Sailors' Encampment, Algoma Dist.**—Is continuing its work in dental clinics for school, and pre-school children, and is also contributing to Emergency Service Work in a practical way. The members are making twenty coats for children in addition to sweaters and other knitted goods.

**Gamebridge, Ontario Co.**—Added to the interest in historical research when, at the regular meeting, papers were given on the histories of the local church and industries. Indian relics and their significance formed an exhibit, and old songs and their associations were used to illustrate a phase of old time culture. Interest has been aroused in the value of records, and steps have been taken to file this history with others of the district.

**Hickson, Oxford Co.**—Held an open meeting with varied educational items, including motion pictures of the Royal Visit, the Rockies, and Modern Poultry Farming. Musical numbers were contributed. An illustrated talk on flower arrangement was helpful.

## DEMOCRACY

(Continued from page 3, col. 1).

individual citizen enters into the life of the Democracy. Actually, in recent decades, we have been practising a superficial type of Democracy leaving to the elected Government practically all the responsibility of action, and refusing to accept much personal responsibility. At the same time we have withheld from the Government the powers necessary for effective government without active participation of all the people. We must decide on one of two courses, either to assume the responsibilities as well as the rights of Democracy individually, in the home and in the community, which is the only way a Democracy can really survive, or give up our rights of freedom, etc., giving to the Government the power to regulate the life of the nation.

To relinquish our rights would be to accept regimentation, and to lose at home the battle we are fighting abroad. The only alternative is to make Democracy work through a re-emphasis on the value of the individual, the home and the community. Democracy can become the most effective type of Government on earth and above all a Government which will retain the values of Freedom, Justice, and Truth. Democracy will then, foster and not stifle the growth of the individual and the nation.

### What is Your Opinion?

1. Are socialism and capitalism both essential to the effective working of political democracy?
2. In what way are dictatorships more efficient than democracies? In what way are democracies more efficient than dictatorships?
3. How can local and individual initiative make democracy more effective?

### Can You Answer These Questions?

1. What services and products are socialistically produced and what capitalistically produced in Sweden and Denmark? In Canada?
2. What are the historic causes of national Socialism in Germany?
3. What are the basic principles of democracy and by what machinery, in a democracy are they safeguarded?
4. To what extent are individual and local activities characteristic of Sweden and Denmark?

### Do the Answers Change Your Opinions?

(Continued from page 1, col. 4).

### Programmes Selected for 1940-1941

Homemaking Club programmes were selected for 1940-1941 at each county achievement day. Feeling that club training and experience will prepare girls to meet their daily problems more efficiently and effectively in peace or war time, leaders and members unhesitatingly decided to continue club studies in these testing and extremely busy days.

It is hoped and believed that the new club unit "The Club Girl Stands on Guard", which many counties are already studying, may be of special value to club members as they endeavour, as loyal citizens, to stand on guard on the home front. For these girls, "Standing on Guard" will involve a study of ways and means to improve and practice personal, family and community nutrition and health habits.

### What of Club Work?

You ask, What of Club Work? Does it develop girls? Does it assist them in their daily living? Does it encourage them in establishing goals and standards? Does it challenge them to think, to formulate values? Does it give them an opportunity to work with others and co-operate with others?

The answers will be found in the girls themselves, as we see them today, tomorrow and in the years ahead, in their clubs, in their homes and at their work. Already during 1940 many girls have shown in many ways that club work may and does assist them in these things.

(Contributed by Miss P. P. Eadie, Woman's Institute Branch).