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F. W. I. O. BOARD REVIEWS AND PLANS ACTIVITIES

PROVINCIAL BOARD 1940-41.



Reading from left to right:

FRONT ROW—Mrs. J. Lothian, Mrs. C. J. Russell, Mrs. R. Milligan, Miss Mary A. Clarke (Superintendent), Mrs. E. Duke (President), Mrs. W. B. Leatherdale (Sec'y-Treas.), Mrs. T. J. McDowell (Hon. Pres.), Mrs. J. C. Thompson, Mrs. D. Z. Gibson.

SECOND ROW—Miss C. Synott, Mrs. G. Hamilton, Mrs. F. Pearson, Mrs. L. Reesor, Mrs. E. Haney, Mrs. J. Wraight, Mrs. C. Holmes, Mrs. E. Wilson, Mrs. N. Perrin.

BACK ROW—Mrs. W. D. Payne, Mrs. F. C. Fell, Mrs. T. Burn, Mrs. C. W. Amey, Mrs. Roy VanZant, Mrs. J. McCrie.

RETROSPECT AND PROSPECT

Emma M. Duke, Provincial President.

Looking back for a moment over the past year, as President of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, many and varied are the pictures which pass before my mind's eye.

How prone we are to confine our concepts of Women's Institute activities within the sphere of our own local and district organizations. We do not take into consideration that there are ninety-six districts, and one thousand three hundred and ninety Institutes in the Province of Ontario. They are all carrying on programmes similar to our own but with local conditions contributing to variations in achievement.

A year ago, I was a complete stranger to most Women's Institute members throughout the Province. Today, I hope you feel better acquainted with me. I certainly have very pleasant and fresh memories of my meeting with many of you. The district annuals which I attended last Spring, and the more recently attended conventions, provided a wonderful opportunity for us to meet each other. It also afforded me a clearer insight into the important part Women's Institutes are playing in our world today and in the lives of rural Ontario women.

I thank you for your gestures of friendship. The old saying, "the world is a small place after all," was evidenced on more than one occasion.

You have all made contributions worthy of our organization to your homes, to your community, and to Ontario's war effort. Through the reports of your standing committee conveners, it is quite evident you are aware of your responsibility and are eager to make the most effective and lasting effort possible. Papers prepared on topics of the hour, speakers and study groups, all tell of varied interests and all open new channels of thought. Your interest in problems of legislation is evident. Food and its relation to the health of those within our household is a very vital question today. Consumer education and modern methods of conservation are also prominent in your studies. I want to congratulate you all on your past year's achievements.

Ahead of us lies another year, and we are still at war. What have you planned to do this year? In your educational programmes you have planned a more intensive study of world affairs, of education, of health, perhaps, or Canadianization. Demonstrations are valuable, and the social and cultural aspects of our meetings must not be overlooked.

What have you planned as your war effort? First, you have made a resolve to support the Central Fund of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario by your personal contributions, three thousand dollars of which will be used to furnish a ward in a Canadian hospital in England. Next, no doubt, you plan to look to the comforts of the local boys who are serving in some capacity in His Majesty's forces. Then, too, perhaps you plan to work in cooperation with the Red Cross or for the Navy, or the Salvation Army, or any of the many channels which are open.

To those who are finding it difficult to "carry on", take stock, find out why. In some cases you know the answer, again you may not. Are your programmes uninteresting or out of date? Does the business session of your meetings drag? Are your meetings late in starting and later in ending? Look for the solution, and remedy affairs. Give your officers all the support you can. The success or failure of a meeting does not rest entirely on the officers. It is your responsibility too. If every member goes to a meeting prepared to make some contribution to that meeting, success will be assured.

Again this year, as in the past, there will be those to whom the hand of welcome extended will never be forgotten, and will mean more than we will ever know. The invitation to all non-members in the community to join the Institute will be mutually helpful. The friendly visits to sick and shut-in friends are long remembered. The many acts of thoughtful kindness will be appreciated this year, as they have been in the past.

Guard well the identity of our organization. Past contributions have been valuable, and we have still more valuable contributions to make to the Ontario and the Canada of the future.

It was made clear that the Legislative grant to Institutes is to be used for educational purposes and is not to be given to another organization nor voted to meet other demands.

Letter Friend Scheme

A message from the Honourable Frances Farrer, General Secretary of the National Federation of Women's Institutes, expressed appreciation of the response to the Letter Friend scheme by some 15 Ontario members now keeping up regular contacts. An excerpt from the letter follows: "The practical help and sympathy of Canadian Women's Institutes is the greatest support just now and we should like to express our thanks to your members for all that they are doing for us. Just lately, of course, they have added to their many kind deeds by welcoming and taking into their homes British children, and Institute members in this country will feel greatly cheered to think that their children may be going to homes of your members".

The Lady Tweedsmuir, in acknowledging the message of Ontario Women's Institutes upon her departure from Canada, wrote in part: "I am taking up my Institute work in England again and am so glad to hear that you are going on corresponding with the British Women's Institutes. I hope that you will never hesitate to write to me if there is anything that you want to know."

Appreciation was expressed for the furtherance of the Letter Friend scheme through the kind attention of Miss M. V. Powell of the Department.

Discussion Forum

An innovation at the Board meeting was a discussion forum under three topics with leaders as follows:

How to Conduct Elections—led by Miss Mary A. Clarke.

How to Present F.W.I.O. at District Annuals—led by Mrs. T. J. McDowell.

How to Compile District Annual Reports—led by Mrs. W. B. Leatherdale.

Secretary's Report

The secretary's report showed that the activities of the Women's Institutes had been of wide interest and scope and that much worth-while service had been rendered. Co-operation with other organizations and agencies had been furthered.

A letter of greeting and welcome to Canada had been sent to Her Royal Highness, Princess Alice, and this had been graciously acknowledged by Honorable Ariel Baird, Lady-in-Waiting: "Her Royal Highness is most anxious to see as much as possible of the wonderful work of Women's Institutes and looks forward to meeting the members on her return to Ottawa in October."

Some 76 Institutes had contributed to the jam-making enterprise.

An outstanding publicity feature was the Women's Institute booth at the Canadian National Exhibition, 1940. Letters had been written to all those who contributed to this work, thanking them for their voluntary efforts which helped so much to make the exhibit a success.

200 copies of "Call to Prayer" had been distributed. 8,542 song sheets and 201 copies of the Hand Book had been sold. Some 1,500 letters had been written during the Federation year.

Recommendation was made that Institutes continue to encourage the use of Travelling Libraries in centres (Continued on page 4, col. 4).

Mrs. Ernest Duke of Port Carling was unanimously re-elected President of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario at the annual meeting of the Board, Toronto, November, 1940. The President extended greetings to the 38 newly organized Women's Institutes and welcomed them into the Federation. She expressed appreciation of the support she had received from the officers and general membership and the co-operation of the Department.

Special War-time Activities

Selecting from the various suggestions for war work presented by the Central Fund Committee, a campaign was launched to swell the War Charities Fund to \$3,000.00. This amount was set as the immediate objective to furnish a ward (32 bed, hutment) in a Canadian hospital in England.

A sum of \$500.00 was voted from the Central Fund to the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada National War Gift to the Canadian Minister of Defence, to be used for the purchase of equipment wherever the need is greatest.

The Board named Mrs. Duke convener of the Central Fund Committee, with the following personnel: Mrs. T. J. McDowell, Mrs. L. Reesor, Mrs. C. J. Russell, Mrs. D. Z. Gibson, Miss Mary A. Clarke as honorary member, and Mrs. W. B. Leatherdale, secretary-treasurer.

The report of the Central Fund Committee to date, given by Mrs. Duke, described the gifts of furniture which had been made to the troops recreational rooms, R.C.A.S.C. at Camp Borden. The total receipts had reached \$2,004.10 and, with expenditures of \$795.13, the balance November 1, was \$1,208.97. Mrs. Duke expressed thanks for the contributions which the Institutes had made in support of the Provincial war effort. Institutes were urged to promote the sale of War Savings Stamps.

Importance of Agriculture

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Mr. W. R. Reek, and Mrs. Reek were guests at the Board dinner. In an after-dinner address, Mr. Reek complimented the members on their war work and the busy season of jam making just concluded. He urged the Women's Institutes in their war work to retain their organization as a unit and work in co-operation with other organizations. Mr. Reek referred to agriculture as being much more important on this continent than we have been willing to admit and pointed out that we must recognize the changes going on in agriculture. He mentioned the definite trend toward mechanization of agriculture owing to the shortage of labour. He challenged the Women's Institutes by suggesting that there will be many problems which they must help solve.

Miss Mary A. Clarke, Superintendent, brought greetings from the Department. She stated that through the interest of the Honourable P. M. Dewan, Minister of Agriculture, in the educational work in rural Ontario, the Women's Institutes of Ontario are given strong support. Miss Clarke outlined the work done by the Women's Institute Branch in 1939-40 and expressed her appreciation of the support given by the senior Institutes to the juniors. The Superintendent congratulated the Board directors on their election to the Provincial Board and gave helpful suggestions for the performance of their duties.

(Continued col. 4 this page).