

# HOME and COUNTRY

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## SINCERITY OF PURPOSE PERMEATES CONVENTIONS

If any one phrase could epitomize the spirit of the Women's Institute conventions this fall, it might be "sincerity of purpose". In spite of the pressure of war work, delegates and visitors alike have attended the conventions with minds attuned to today's needs and determined to seek information with which to meet their problems.

May we take this opportunity to congratulate those Institutes which accepted their responsibility for sending a delegate prepared to remain for all sessions and to represent her Institute even in those closing sessions when so often matters of real importance are still under discussion. (The Toronto convention has not yet been held.)

### The Path to Victory

The wartime responsibilities of Institutes have been given first place. Addresses like the one at Hamilton given by Dr. Salmon of McMaster University, which emphasized that "The Path to Victory" lies only through an all-out effort of men, machines, production, money and effort, gave listeners information with which to build a better understanding of the national problems facing a country at war. At Kingston, and at Belleville, women were inspired with the need for "International Thinking" by Dr. A. V. Douglas, Dean of Women, Queen's University. Everywhere, Institute members were urged to think deeply, study thoughtfully and then act to win victory and peace.

Reports of war work were given. Unfortunately, too often these were not sufficiently complete to give a true picture of the accomplishments of your organization. This coming year every area, district and Institute has a war work convener. We cannot urge too strongly that these conveners be diligent in reporting all work done, in loyalty to the Women's Institutes of Ontario.

Every convention area voted to accept the new listing of standing committees outlined in Summer Home and Country, with Historical Research as an additional committee. This change was unanimously hailed with appreciation.

### Canadian Citizenship

Members of the Guelph Area, meeting at Chesley, gained revived interest in the study of Canadianization (Citizenship) through the address of Prof. Watson Kirkconnell on "Problems of National Unity". From his vast experience of the racial groups within the dominion, Prof. Kirkconnell gave to many a new picture of "Who is a Canadian". If your Institute has not a copy of his book, *Canadians All*, it is strongly commended to you. The book may be secured from the Bureau of Public Information, Ottawa, free of charge.

"Current Events" was presented in a new light by the convener of the Belleville Area who said "What Is a Current Event? I feel it is not a snippet of news cut from a newspaper almost every one has seen. Think of the meaning of the word current. See it as a stream flowing perpetually from the past to the future. Then the Current Event is the event which shows how the current is flowing.

To present to a meeting we want events of some significance and we ourselves must understand how and why they are significant."

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## REGIONAL CONFERENCE INSPIRES WOMEN

The ten-days Regional Conference, Associated Country Women of the World, was a meeting so filled with timely information and inspiration that it is impossible in a brief article to give more than a few of the outstanding impressions.

The Conference was held in the Chateau Laurier, Ottawa, September 3-10, 1941, followed by a visit to Montreal and Quebec City. Representatives were present from every Canadian province, except Saskatchewan, and from New York, Michigan, Ohio, Iowa, Rhode Island and other parts of the United States, to take advantage of the opportunity given by Mrs. Alfred Watt, M.B.E. for country women and extension workers active in rural life to meet together to secure information about and discuss their mutual problems.

A wealth of well-qualified speakers and opportunity for free discussion guaranteed success. The spirit of the meeting was one of sincerity and neighbourliness. The search for every possible means of promoting international unity was apparent on the part of both Canadian women and those from the United States. At its close, Canadians and Americans seemed very close in heart and mind.

### Food and Agriculture

Food Problems and Agriculture occupied attention the opening day. Agriculture was given its rightful place as a bulwark in national defence. Rural women's organizations were urged to use their influence to promote better agricultural practices both in production and marketing, and to be ever diligent in improving rural life. Mrs. Shuttler from Missouri, in a witty address, admonished farm women to be proud of that fact and to be appreciative of their economic importance. Mrs. Mies, President, Associated Farm Women, U.S.A., drew a picture of the influence of women on farms, emphasizing the value of organization and the need to "know" agriculture. "We have to be interested in what Jones raises, whether he lives on the next farm, in Canada or in Australia." The Hon. Jas. G. Gardiner presented a very comprehensive picture of Canadian agriculture, emphasizing the need to supply Great Britain's demands first and explaining why food had not been rationed. He called on the women to aid both as producers and consumers. Two round table discussions on agriculture testified to the interest.

### Natural Resources

Natural Resources Day followed, with the time spent in consideration of the depletion of natural resources, the use of substitutes and new manufactured goods, and the use of natural resources in home crafts. At Quebec City the delegates saw a fine exhibit of Quebec hand-craft.

The meeting was privileged to hear two outstanding American women on the problem of Consumer Services,—Mrs. Helendeen Dodderidge, Consumer Division, U.S.A., and Mrs. May T. Evans, Department of Civilian Supply, Price Administration, and one Canadian, Miss Laura Pepper, Consumer Division, Canadian Department of Agriculture. Women were urged to make household goods last as long as possible, to plan buying so that they do not demand labour and machinery needed for military services, to support simplification programs, to eliminate waste, to avoid inflation, to keep good nutrition and

health in mind. Tribute was paid to Canada's progress in grading foods. Mrs. Dodderidge emphasized that "distribution must be so efficient that not one pound of food is wasted."

Nutrition and National Security provided the theme for the morning of the third day. Lt.-Col. Webb, Chief Inspector, Catering, Defence Department, Canada, and Miss Mary Barber, Food Consultant to Secretary of War, U.S.A., reassured all present concerning the nutritional adequacy of Canadian and American Army rations and the care being taken to use them to best advantage. Nutrition as applied to every-day life was emphasized. Interesting comments were "the husband on the farm is the greatest bottleneck in the practice of good nutrition", because "he'd rather have what he'd rather"; "knowledge of vitamins will not make you grow, it is the vitamins themselves which do that."

### Women in Wartime

When the opportunity came to tell of the organized effort of women in national service, Mrs. E. A. Duke, President, F.W.I.O., presented a comprehensive and inspiring picture of the war work of the Women's Institutes of Canada in agriculture, homemaking and special wartime activities. All were interested in the Garden Brigades of Nova Scotia described by Miss Helen MacDougall, Superintendent.

Miss Sheila Macdonald told of the women of England, of their interest in the garden clubs, of their interest in nutrition and better cookery, and of the growing understanding which is bringing all the people closer together. She said "A woman cooking for her own family in her own kitchen, or making a joke in an air shelter, thus bolstering morale, is truly serving in the defense of her country".

### Democratic Leadership

The last day which it was my privilege to attend was devoted to Democracy. In a scholarly address, Mr. Sholto Watt gave a historical sketch of the growth of democracy. Both Dr. Ruby Green Smith, Head of New York State Extension Service, and Mrs. R. Sayre of Iowa developed this theme, speaking of the need to prepare every woman to sit at the peace table so that they may actively support the ideals for which we fight. Mrs. Sayre stated that "Our business is to build roads of understanding across the barriers which divide nations". To do this women must (1) be well informed concerning the world we live in,—to see it as a mechanized, specialized, rapidly moving and "shrinking" world in which nations are interdependent; (2) understand the progress already made in international co-operation and understanding; (3) recognize the barriers which separate nations—political, social, economic, cultural, racial, religious; (4) be willing to take action; (5) accept leadership.

Dr. Ruby Green Smith outlined the qualities of leadership as:

Hopeful courage and belief in a cause, Enthusiasm, Ability to laugh and be laughed at, Sincerity, Loyalty to truth, Common Sense, Courtesy, Fairness and Good Sportsmanship, Self-effacement, Unselfishness, Mentality, Audacity, Radiance, Willingness to work, Responsibility, Spirituality.

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## ONTARIO JAM HELPS BRITAIN

For the third successive year Women's Institute members have made jam for shipment overseas.

In 1939, Women's Institute members in Norfolk County put into practice the idea of utilizing home grown fruits for jam for evacuated British children and adults, or for Canadian troops in hospitals overseas. Ten thousand pounds were shipped that fall.

In 1940, the jam-making enterprise, carried on co-operatively by the Women's Institutes of Ontario and the Ontario Division, Canadian Red Cross Society, was so successful that approximately one hundred and ten thousand pounds were shipped to the Canadian Red Cross Warehouse in England and to Lady Reading's Committee for Civilians. It all arrived safely.

### Letters from England

Many letters of appreciation on behalf of evacuated British children have been received. One letter from the Matron of a War Emergency Home in Wendover states:

"I have again the great pleasure of thanking you for your help and generosity in sending yet another case of jam to the children of this Nursery. The members of the staff and the visitors to the Nursery to whom I have shown the label on the jam were deeply touched by the wording on it. I assure you we are doing all in our power to ensure that the future citizens of that 'England' for whom you in America are doing so much will be worthy in body and soul to carry on the best traditions of our Empire. They are too little now to realize the extent of your kindness but I have told their parents and you may be sure our hearts are full of gratitude."

We know that the jam is benefiting old as well as young from the following letter:

"I thought perhaps that you might like to know how we were using the jam which you were kind enough to send to us.

"In Exeter, we have a Hostel for aged refugees from a blitzed city—the baby of the party is sixty-eight and the eldest ninety-five, I think—and our canteen workers go in every day to help them get to bed and to listen to all their troubles and lend a hand generally.

"They found that the old people were suffering from shock in many cases and thought that an extra sugar ration might help in restoring their vitality. So they applied to us and we gave them a case of your raspberry jam. Unless you have seen them, I don't think you would ever realize how much pleasure this gave them. It was not only the actual jam, but the psychological effect of knowing that you in Canada were taking a personal interest in them, and showing your interest in such a very kind and practical way. Will you please accept our very grateful thanks."

### Over the Top

The request that more jam be shipped this year, to meet the urgent need for both fruit and sugar, has brought a whole-hearted response from Institute members.

The objective set for Canada was 300,000 pounds of which 150,000 to 200,000 pounds were to come from

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