

SINCERITY OF PURPOSE

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Agriculture was never neglected. At the London Convention, one evening was devoted to this when Mr. Riddell, agricultural representative for Middlesex County, made an appeal for increased production for Britain and the support of boys' clubs. He was followed by Miss Agnes MacPhail who discussed the Federation of Agriculture. At Huntsville, Mr. Tipper spoke on "Agriculture in Our National Life." It was conceded that the Women's Institute as an educational organization could do much to promote production, improve quality and promote grading and, in towns and villages, help control the consumption of agricultural products.

The active interest in public health in all areas, but especially in Northern Ontario, was one of the most encouraging features of the conventions. At Dryden, a talk by the Medical Officer of Health was followed by a visit to the local Red Cross Hospital to see the iron lung in action. Huntsville, Manitoulin and Algoma showed a keen interest in medical services, as did Simcoe. Everywhere the aim was to buy health, rather than to pay for sickness.

Rural Education

Education received its share of attention. At Hamilton, a resolution was adopted asking the Provincial Board to provide for every Institute information for the study of the Township Area of Administration and to urge its adoption. Dr. McGregor Eason, Inspector Public Schools, Ottawa, said "If education is to play its part we need fewer one-roomed schools, the larger unit of administration and better teachers. Teachers should receive reasonable salaries, they must accept a high degree of responsibility, they must be students of child life, they must be open minded to social changes and must employ democratic principles in the schools".

The girls' sessions demonstrated to Women's Institute members the practical and cultural value of Homemaking Clubs. The results of the years' clubs are described elsewhere in this issue.

Miss Mary A. Clarke, Superintendent, spoke on the theme "You Are Needed Now" emphasizing opportunities for service which are available to Institute members. Mrs. E. A. Duke, provincial president, brought a message of inspiration and courage, reporting on the biennial conference, F.W.I.C. at Fredericton and the Region Conference, Associated Country Women of the World.

Historical Research was well recognized. At Hilton Beach the history of St. Joseph's Island was featured.

At New Liskeard was reported one of the very interesting community activities. One Institute invited the council to their meeting where they outlined certain necessary improvements which were subsequently undertaken by the council.

Discussions Popular

Discussion groups grow in favour. At the Ottawa Area, one hour was allowed for this. Six groups were formed, based on the new standing committees. With enthusiastic leaders, these became so interesting that the allotted time was all too short. At Kingston, a panel discussion was held on the subject "How Institutes Should Function in Wartime", with about ten members prepared to speak briefly and open discussion from the floor. At New Liskeard, a round table discussion on "For Home and Country" produced many practical suggestions.

A special tribute should be paid to the support given to the convention by the local papers. It was a pleasure, as always, to have women editors of farm magazines present.

Again, conventions have proved their value as a source of information and inspiration, as a valuable place for the interchange of thought, and a place to plan future activities.

FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF ONTARIO
ORDER SEEDS FOR ENGLAND

As intimated in the "Home and Country", Summer 1941, the F. W. I. O. has been assured that seeds will be appreciated in England again this year for distribution by the National Federation of Women's Institutes. The Central Fund committee has arranged for the shipment of approximately two tons of vegetable seeds, selecting those requested by the English Institutes. Assortments containing pea, bean, carrot and onion seeds will be packaged all ready for distribution; in addition, corn, tomato, sunflower seed and extra onion seed will be sent to be used where they are most needed or will grow best. These seeds will be shipped not later than December 15th so that they may arrive in time for early planting. The cost of the seed, including transportation and insurance, will approximate \$2,000.00.

SUGAR FUND FOR JAM

Total receipts for the purchase of sugar for jam-making have been \$1,846.91. Of this, \$1,613.47 has been distributed to Institutes making jam. The balance of \$233.44 will be disposed of as directed by the Institutes concerned, that is, those Institutes whose donations arrived late in the season and have not been used.

This money has been handled through the Women's Institutes Branch. All donations received were listed and a record kept of the Institutes to which the money was sent. These donations were acknowledged by both the Women's Institutes Branch and the Institutes receiving the donations.

The success of this phase of the jam-making enterprise again shows the value of co-operation and organization. Elsewhere in this issue will be found an article on the jam-making enterprise as a whole.

BLANKETS FOR AIR RAID
VICTIMS

In response to the appeal of the Canadian Red Cross for blankets for England, the week of October 19th, the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario were able, through the Central Fund, to make an immediate contribution of \$400.00 for the purchase of one hundred pairs of blankets by the Red Cross to be shipped overseas at once to alleviate the suffering of air-raid victims.

SIMCOE COUNTY MUSEUM

Through the years men and women have dreamed dreams and seen visions, and gone forth to accomplish great things. Women's Institute members have been no exception, and we find many monuments to their vision and foresight. Such a vision came to a former president of Simcoe County Women's Institutes, Mrs. R. A. Sutherland, Stroud, who looked into the future and saw a building in which to preserve for posterity a record of the customs of our times.

During the early years of Simcoe County Women's Institutes so many antiques were exhibited at the Women's Institute section of fall fairs, and at other meetings, that it was thought it would be a great inspiration if these could be permanently housed. Finally, space at the Library, Barrie, was given for this purpose and it was formally opened on June 25th 1930. The collection grew so, that it was found necessary to get a larger building. The former Registry Office, Barrie, was procured through the interest of Mrs. C. P. Stocking, Waubashene.

On Thursday, October 11, 1934, this museum, which is to house permanently many valuable articles, was formally opened. The museum is financed by contributions from the treasury of the County W. I. and other gifts.

The building has stone floors, stone walls, stone casements for windows with iron bars over the glass. There are now four rooms furnished with exhibits in glass cases. A few pedestals have life-sized busts, very fine pieces of statuary copied in plaster. The exhibits of birds' nests, insects and butterflies are a study in themselves for students; as are early utensils, hand implements, garments, handicraft, old world relics, maps, furniture, bedding and other articles too numerous to mention.

A complete account would not be made without reference to the Book Plate of John Buchan and its accompanying letter by Lady Tweedmuir which were presented to Mrs.

(Continued next col.)

ONTARIO JAM

(From page 1, col. 4)

Ontario. British Columbia, Quebec, and the Maritimes are also sending jam to England. A letter from British Columbia comments on the magnificent work the members there have been doing and adds "a group of six women from Chilliwack made 3,000 pounds of jam, which, I am sure, you will realize entailed a prodigious effort during the past hot summer days".

In Ontario, the work is carried on both in canning factories where the owners have given their time, labour and supervision and in home or community kitchens by groups of women working under local supervisors using pure jam recipes.

Strawberry, raspberry, currant, gooseberry, grape, peach, pear, plum and apricot jams and apple jelly all have been made. Where fruit is not plentiful, cans have been filled with honey.

It is estimated that Ontario will more than meet her quota, providing approximately two hundred and twenty-five thousand pounds this year. To date (October) 125,568 pounds have been shipped overseas. The quality of the jam is excellent.

The Canadian Red Cross Society has supplied the four-pound cans, labels, packing cases and free transportation of the cans to a central Red Cross branch, as well as transportation of the filled cans to the Canadian Red Cross Warehouse overseas.

Organization Counts

In each district, the central committee, headed by a jam convener, consists of representatives of the Red Cross Societies and Women's Institutes. The splendid results have shown how co-operation with other groups in the community can be productive of fine achievement.

Good district organization plays an important part in the quantity as well as the quality of the jam produced. One district where relatively little fruit is grown has produced over three thousand pounds of jam. The jam was made in a community kitchen under one faithful supervisor who arranged to have different Women's Institute groups work on different days, each bringing with them any available fruit and sugar. This type of supervision produced an excellent quality of jam. The local newspapers co-operated in encouraging donations and reporting the amounts made. The supervisor writes, "I feel we have had a very successful season and I have so enjoyed every minute of the work. The Institutes co-operated beautifully as they always do."

Results Satisfy

Members of one Institute, rather fearful of taking on the project, on surveying their assets found that "the Institute was already in possession of a kitchen, a coal stove and a coal-oil stove, all at the rink, where hot dogs and coffee are dispensed to hungry skaters in winter. It did not look very convenient at first but proved amazingly so".

Another supervisor writes: "Every one is so delighted with the recipes and are doing their own the same way. We are certainly learning a lot about the different kinds of fruit. The project is educational as well as useful. I am getting great experience in buying, bookkeeping and reporting."

In spite of the hard work, the women participating feel a great sense of satisfaction in being able to do something for those in a less fortunate position than themselves. Every woman will be glad to hear from England that "the children enjoy it. It has been a valuable addition to their diet and helped to make them strong and well again. I feel I must add, too, that the jam is beautifully made and in perfect condition when it arrives here".

(Contributed by Flora M. Webster, W. I. Branch.)

REPORT WAR WORK

The report forms for special wartime activities to September 30, 1941, have not yet been received in sufficient number for compilation. Has your's been sent in? If not, please send it at once so that the figures may be publicized in the next "Home and Country". We want a report of YOUR work, so that the record of Ontario Institutes may do justice to the work done by the members.

NEWS FLASHES

Kenora.—"I enclose a copy of our programme. So far, attendance has been most encouraging. By assigning every member to some committee, we hope that all will feel themselves to be needed. Each convener was asked to call her committee together and decide on topics to be submitted to the executive before the programme was made out. The response was splendid. We couldn't begin to use all the suggestions."

Ridgeville.—"Would it interest you to know that since this Institute was organized on October 26, 1937, our community has been completely changed? Before then we hardly knew each other; now, we are all friendly and try to work together for the good of all".

Castlemore.—"We are always sewing and knitting, for war work of course. July 9th we had a barn dance and netted a good amount. We have donated jam and honey as last year,—170 pounds of jam and 80 pounds of honey. We are making quilts for the refugees, the "uproads" making one and the "downroads" another. We try to keep up with our local community work as well."

Haldimand District.—Has a progressive study of music as follows: Sept.—History of a Harvest Hymn; Oct.—Thanksgiving hymn; Nov.—Hymn of peace; Dec.—Christmas hymn; Jan.—Scottish Song; March—Irish Song; April—English or Welsh Folk Song; May—Children's Song or Maypole Dance; June—A Love Song."

J. R. Boyes of Lefroy who, in turn, presented them to the museum.

Recently, there has been presented to the Museum the valuable collection of Indian relics belonging to the late A. F. Hunter, noted historian, and also samples of homespun products of the mills of seventy years ago.

The museum may be visited on certain days throughout the summer and at other times by appointment. (Contributed by Mrs. E. Hewitt, Publicity Convener, Simcoe Co. W.I.)