

HOME AND COUNTRY

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

WE NEED THINKING WOMEN

Canadian women enter the spring of 1942 in a wartime world which calls for a continuous, sustained total war effort. Our contributions must continue day after day with never-slackening pace,—indeed, acceleration is necessary. This accelerated war effort now demands from all certain privations and the willingness to renounce comforts and pleasures which have been taken for granted for many years. To meet these demands, people of physical, mental and spiritual stamina are needed; people whose health and morale will enable them to stand both the physical and emotional strain of modern war.

This we all know. As Women's Institute members, we are concerned with what the Institutes can do. Opportunity is knocking at the door. To knit and sew is not enough. The Institute should be a strong force in the community in the development of right attitudes, in helping all to see where duty lies and in maintaining morale.

Has your Institute placed its weight as an organization behind those regulations necessary to keep our country on a sound financial basis, and to ensure that all available supplies are used to the best advantage? For example, have you worked to create right attitudes toward sugar rationing, gasoline rationing, hoarding and panic buying, that, both by precept and example, Institute members may help others to see and to accept their duty? Are you planning to store and can at home the products of your farms so that the reduced supply of commercially canned products (necessitated by Canada's lack of tin) may be available for overseas use and for Canadians for whom home canning is less available?

Every Institute meeting should be an inspiration to the members, providing information and concrete suggestions which will help them to see and carry out these responsibilities as good citizens. We need thinking women!

While working for to-day's needs, the future must not be forgotten. It is always encouraging to hear from England that, even in the midst of

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WAR AGAINST INFLATION

Mr. Donald Gordon, Chairman, Wartime Prices and Trade Board, in a challenging address in Toronto, March 30, stated:

"Because we are still a democracy, the success of our war effort depends upon the initiative and co-operation of every citizen in this country.

Because we still are a democracy, each person must stand prepared voluntarily to sacrifice in the face of a common danger, all selfish advantages of class, position and prosperity.

Because we still are a democracy, every citizen must accept a personal responsibility for the war and make his every conscious act and deed a direct contribution to a total war effort."

Mr. Gordon went on to emphasize the importance of the part which every citizen can play in the prevention of inflation, so essential a factor in keeping Canada on a sound economic basis without which total war cannot be waged.

What Women Can Do

If the part which you can play has not been discussed in your Institute yet, include it in your programme. These are suggestions,—

Buy War Savings Bonds and Certificates.

Avoid "buying sprees". To quote Mr. Gordon, "Anybody who buys more than current needs of anything is definitely undermining the war effort of this country. The plain fact is that a high standard of living and a total war effort cannot go hand in hand." In other words, buy only what you actually need.

Follow Government requests, e.g. voluntarily to ration sugar for your family, and to make everything last as long as possible.

Support the Price Ceiling

Concise information has been sent to every Institute in two booklets, (1) Questions and Answers, (2) Price Control in Canada, by Kenneth Wilson.

Appoint an interested member of your Institute to act as liaison officer, to explain and keep members up-to-date about changes in the price ceiling, to receive complaints and investigate these locally and, when necessary, to send full details to the nearest Wartime Prices and Trade Board Regional Office or to the Women's Regional Advisory Committee.

The Individual's Duty

1. Keep a record of purchases made and prices paid. Have you the little blue book "My Price Ceiling Record"? If not, have your secretary write to the Women's Institute Branch, Department of Agriculture, Parliament Buildings, Toronto, Ontario.

2. If you believe a price has been increased above the basic price, provide the following details,—

(a) Full description of article, including, when relevant, information re size of package, brand name.

(b) Name and address of merchant.
(c) Assurance that the article was purchased from the same merchant during the basic period September 15 to October 15, 1941 and price paid. Submit sales slips or receipts if possible.

(d) Date when purchase was made at increased price. Include sales slip if possible.

3. Present this information to your liaison officer who will discuss it with you.

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war, remarkable social changes are being effected and the people are planning post-war reconstruction. Mrs. Chas. Russell's letter from England mentions this. While working at the kitchen sink or in the field or knitting, let your minds tackle this problem. Clarify your own ideals and convictions and keep alive your faith. Then search for the practical way to attain the goal. Addresses and discussions at your Institute meetings and the work of your standing committees will all help. Again, we need thinking women!

CITIZENSHIP

press, cinema, radio, etc? Even you and I can help.

How to Study

Mrs. M. Wade, Glenbush, Sask., the National Convener of Citizenship, has suggested certain topics for study. Let us consider, now, how we might study these. If we have to rely on talks or papers, let us try to carry our audiences with mental pictures of common human interest. But can you not picture at one of your meetings, a skit, "The Atlantic Charter", consisting of brief, quick-moving scenes, portraying freedom gained for the British (and Americans, too), (1) by the Magna Charta, (2) by the Petition of Rights; freedom gained for the Americans by the Declaration of Independence; greater freedom gained for Canada by the acceptance of Lord Durham's Report; freedom gained for the negroes of the United States by the Civil War; the vision of Woodrow Wilson, the League of Nations; the visions of Winston Churchill and President Roosevelt and the signing of the Atlantic Charter? Mrs. Wade suggests members make scrap-books of the references we read and hear relating to future, stronger, international organization.

Could we not use more imaginary travellages, or radio broadcasts, to understand the culture of the lands from which our new neighbours have come? I hope all are familiar with the booklet, "Canadians All". (Director of Public Information, Ottawa). Do you know the most recent ruling on our own naturalization laws?

Could we not co-operate with the convener of Social Welfare and the teacher, to fully appreciate what is being done in schools to make our children good citizens through patriotic drills, music, plays, literary societies, school newspapers, etc. We all know what good leaders our children are.

Debates and Discussions

If your Institute is fond of debates, here is a subject I suggest. (I hope you all read Resolution, No. 6, published in the Home and Country, Winter issue). "Resolved that man's appreciation of the modern woman's ability to use the franchise for the betterment of the world, is greater than woman's appreciation of her own sex in that respect." Such a subject would be much better debated in a humorous manner.

Or, if your branch prefers discussions, why not discuss "Ways in which this war is leading men and women to work more closely together to solve social and economic problems". Perhaps we can find out why more women have not yet realized that the annual school meeting is one of the most important meetings in a democracy, for "as the twig is bent, so the tree will grow".

For roll calls, may I suggest favourite lines from old or new poems, prose, or songs on "Freedom" or "Our Flag". Let us have as much music as possible in our meetings.

However, I do hope that you shall endeavour more than ever this year, since conditions are such as to place our members under greater stress and strain, to make all work in Citizenship truly re-creational, so that our members shall be re-created in vision, through their emotions and their wills, as well as through their minds. For only through regular re-creational periods will we be able to keep our efficiency in housewifery and agriculture as high as is necessary to win this war; and at the same time to lead us to democratically share with others in the arts of homemaking and citizenship, that our homes and communities will be foundation stones of the New Democratic order for whose birth the men of the army, navy, and air force are staking their lives.

(Contributed by Mrs. T. D. Cowan, Provincial Convener).

At the annual meetings this spring, conveners of the standing committee on Citizenship will have been elected for the Institutes. The duties of this new committee will therefore have come a little closer home. Have you thought what you would like this committee to do for you? Have you thought of what you can do to help?

When I think of "Citizenship", a synopsis of one of Maeterlinck's stories comes to my mind. He tells of a lighthouse keeper who found the inhabitants of the island on which the lighthouse stood, in dire circumstances. He gave them the oil of the mighty lantern to make their homes more cheerful. A storm arose and, because the lighthouse failed, ships were wrecked and many lives lost. Maeterlinck says that man did not thank that keeper for giving to philanthropy what he owed to duty.

As one thinks of the story, one wonders if the keeper did not foresee the danger, but the tuggings at his heart mastered him. Perhaps he had no way of enlisting the help of the fellow-citizens of his country to help solve the problem. Or, perhaps he was a citizen of a democracy but did not understand or care to understand his responsibility and how he could make use of his privileges. Or, perhaps this catastrophe happened simply because he had so little faith in himself and in those with whom his work brought him in contact. He certainly lacked the vision of St. Francis of Assisi, the weavers of Rochedale, Grundvig, Adelaide Hoodless and the present staff of St. Francis Xavier University.

Breadth of Vision

In our work on Citizenship, should we not aim to keep our vision a little keener in order to have well-informed minds, since this is so necessary for the very existence of a democracy? Should we not aim to keep our vision a little broader that we shall be moved by the needs of others? Should we not aim to keep our vision a little more foresighted that we shall have courage to discipline ourselves to act as constructively as we ought? We shall aim to be loyal citizens of King George VI, and, through the leadership of our individual churches, seek the strength and guidance of God to direct our minds, hearts, and wills.

There is no lack of material with which we can nurture our minds. The press is filled with it, the radio, too. The librarians are always ready to help. We can also obtain help from these:

Director of Public Information, Ottawa.

The Canadian Council of Education for Citizenship, 330 Gilmour St., Ottawa.

The Canadian Association of Adult Education, 198 College St., Toronto.

The Manual, "Citizenship and Democracy" published by Department of Education, Regina, Sask. (25 cents).

Formative Periods

In an article in the New Zealand Home and Country, January 1942, M. E. Sweatman says, "There are so many plans that one often feels confused, and there may be danger that people will be able to change the world so rapidly, they shall fail to understand what they are doing."

There have been other formative periods in the history of the world. The Elizabethan period was one of the swiftest transition periods, bringing the most glorious results. What helped to steady it? We should not forget how the dramatists and poets helped. Most of them have been forgotten, for only a few had the gifts of a genius; yet they all helped to keep the folk of their day moving steadily forward by appealing to the minds, emotions and wills, with pictures of human experiences. Shall the future historians tell that we made better use of the same method, because we had so many more advantages—better schools, greater