

## HOME AND COUNTRY

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taries of Women's Institutes to the Women's  
Institute members.

## EDITORIAL COMMENT

## "TOWARDS UNDERSTANDING"

Institute members are becoming more and more aware of their national and international affiliations. Those of us who read the "Home and Country" from Scotland or England, from Nova Scotia or Manitoba, realize that fundamentally we are much alike,—that we are all striving towards the same ideals and that we hold the same principles.

When we read the Scottish editorial on Education, or the series of articles on Reconstruction, or the list of subjects of papers and demonstration, we might be reading of any Canadian Institute. Or, we may read in The Countrywoman, published by the A.C.W.W., about housing plans, dried food or Newfoundland Industries and we feel drawn closer to our fellow countrywomen.

In an article in The Countrywoman, September 1942, entitled "Towards Understanding", which acknowledges a book called "Poland Still Unknown", by Capt. Swicz, we read:

"Knowing this universal longing to be honestly understood, we should be equally anxious to understand others, since there can be no loyal friendship between country and country without comprehension. It is the only root from which peace can spring. We country women understand this with our hearts, but in the past we have been, perhaps, too 'Cumbered with much serving,' like Martha, to give our minds and time to it.

"There are indications that this is not so in the present. More and more, groups all over the world are taking other countries for study, we are more often asked for speakers and letter friends from other lands. This search for understanding is of great importance, and we hope to see it spread among all our societies.

"It is not enough to feel compassion in the face of disasters such as war, earthquake or famine, and to be ready to subscribe to relief funds or sewing parties for the victims. What is needed is the same knowledge of everyday life that we have of our next-door neighbours. Families living next door to each other may have different ancestors and religious beliefs,

(Continued on page 3, col. 4)

WAR WORK ACCOMPLISHED BY THE CENTRAL FUND  
F.W.I.O.

## Help for British Children

The British Children's War Service Fund has been established in Canada to assist the British Government in caring for the evacuated, bombed-out children of Britain and for those whose mothers are working in armament factories. Canada has excellent trained social workers. Through this Fund, 25 of these have been sent to Britain, at the request of the British Ministry of Health, to supervise wartime nurseries and to train British women for supervision later.

Through the F.W.I.O. Central Fund, a donation of \$1,000.00 has been made which will take care of the expenses of one worker until she is established in the employ of the British Government. (See 12th list of contributions.)

We are pleased to be able to report that Miss Eleanor Hamilton of Toronto has been named to act as our representative and we shall hope to receive reports from her of the work which she is doing.

This is a service which will appeal to every home-loving woman.

## War Distress Fund, N.F.W.I., England

As reported in the Spring 1942 Home and Country, the treasurer was authorized to send a gift of \$500.00 to the National Federation Women's Institutes of England and Wales, if required, for war work. Word was received from the secretary that this sum could be used to advantage in their National War Distress Fund for Institutes in blitzed areas.

The money has been forwarded and the following letter of thanks received by Mrs. Leatherdale from E. McCall of the N.F.W.I.:

"Miss Farrer is away on holiday and so I am writing on her behalf to thank you again very much indeed for the cheque for 500 dollars (£111.17.2d) which we have just received.

"Our Institutes are so very deeply touched by your practical help. We know that the Institutes in blitzed areas have all your sympathy.

"I think it might interest you to know that the Canadian Red Cross has approached us to supply Handicraft teachers to some of their hospitals. I need hardly say that we are doing all we can to help them.

"As for your seeds, I think that they are coming up, sometimes now in their second generation, in every county in England."

## Can Sealing Machines

The following letter received by Mrs. W. B. Leatherdale will speak for itself.

Dear Mrs. Leatherdale,

I am writing to confirm our telegram saying that with very great delight we have received safely the three Dixie hand sealing machines, and they have come at a moment when they are most useful to us, that is when we are anxious to preserve as much of the large plum crop as we possibly can for winter use.

Will you very kindly pass to the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario our most grateful thanks for this valuable and practical help. Our members will think of their friends in Canada when they are working to build up the stocks of food in this country for the winter, and will not only be grateful for the extra preserved food, but also for the kindness and friendliness of which the action of the Women's Institute members in Ontario is an example.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) Edith Walker,

Agricultural Secretary, N.F.W.I.

London, S.W.I., Aug. 31, 1942.

## W.I. Mobile Kitchen in Britain

A letter of appreciation for the mobile kitchen sent to Britain in 1941 (see Home and Country, Winter 1941-42) has just been received. It is so interesting that it is being quoted in full.

"May I ask you to convey to the president and members of the Federated Women's Institutes, Ontario, Canada, my very grateful thanks and those of all the members of the National Fire Service in No. 23 Fire Force, for the wonderful gift of a Mobile Kitchen, that they have so very generously sent to us. It is a possession of which we are very proud, and it is a great encouragement to us to feel the interest and sympathy that the women of Canada have in our Service.

"It is intended that our Mobile Kitchen shall be primarily used in No. 23 Fire Force Area. This comprises part of the counties of Warwickshire and Worcestershire, and the whole of Herefordshire. But in addition to this, the Kitchen will be available in emergency for any part of England or Wales to which it may be called.

The Kitchen is stationed near Fire Force Headquarters at Worcester and is manned by a crew of four Firewomen. The Firewomen volunteer for this duty which is very popular, and a weekly quota of crews is drawn up by the women officers. Each crew is "on call" for 24 hours, and must be prepared, if a call is received, to leave Worcester within an hour with the Kitchen stocked, and themselves equipped with steel helmet, respirator and the minimum of personal belongings, not knowing whether they will be away for a few hours or for a week.

"In order to maintain efficiency, a weekly practice call is made. When this is received, the crew on call proceed to a selected Station in the Fire Force Area, (a different Station being selected each week), and prepare dinner for the Kitchen for the Station personnel. Specimen menus for such dinners are:—Stewed mutton, boiled potatoes, greens, rice pudding; or Steamed fish, boiled potatoes, bread and butter pudding. It may perhaps be of interest to note that, if used to capacity, the Kitchen can prepare 30 gallons of stew, 2 cwt. of boiled potatoes, and pudding for 200 men.

"We have recently had a practical example of the very great value of our Kitchen. When His Majesty the King, and Her Majesty the Queen, visited Birmingham in February last, Fire Service Personnel from throughout the Region were instructed to parade in Sutton Park for inspection. It was a bitterly cold day and snow was falling. A call was made for the Mobile Kitchen and, immediately the men left the Parade Ground, they were served with a boiling hot meal of stew, greens, boiled potatoes, and steamed chocolate pudding. 190 hot meals were served by our Kitchen on this occasion. This was the first occasion on which a Royal Parade of the new National Fire Service had been held, and the comfort provided by the Mobile Kitchen set the seal on a proud and happy day. The attendance of the Mobile Kitchen on this occasion served to bring home to us all the immense value of the service that will be performed by the Kitchen in the event of a return of heavy bombing, by serving immediate hot meals to firemen who may be returning, wet through, and tired out from many hours of fire fighting.

"May I once again ask you to convey our gratitude to the women of Ontario for their magnificent gift, and to assure them on our behalf that it will be a constant reminder to us all that we are working together with them for the same cause of victory and freedom."

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) A. J. Bridle, Fire Force Commander.

## CONVENTIONS

(Continued from page 1, col. 4)  
"What can we do to keep our freedom?" This question was in all minds throughout the convention. One Institute reported practical work in Canadianization when it sponsored a tableau "Canadian Mosaic", with new Canadians from many countries taking part.

The Barrie convention emphasized Nutrition, when Dr. Elizabeth Chant Robertson presented a fine illustrated address on this topic. A health programme, planned with the Community Life Training Institute, is being pursued in Simcoe county. They are especially active in the interests of school dental service, the municipal doctor system and immunization. The mimeographed reports of standing committees were appreciated by the delegates.

## Radio Used for Publicity

A feature of the Ottawa convention was a fifteen minute radio programme with the Provincial President the Vice-Chairman and the Superintendent telling of the work of the Women's Institutes of Ontario, and especially in the Ottawa Valley. Agriculture was emphasized when the President of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture spoke to the members. Group discussions on the standing committees were very effective in bringing to light practical suggestions for programme planning.

At the Kingston convention the talk of Miss Sheila MacDonald of Ottawa was a highlight. As one woman said: "She told us just what we wanted to know of the life of Britain's Countryside at War, of its food production and conservation, of the communal feeding, of the work of the Women's Institutes and the Women's Voluntary Services." She showed that in England, as well as Canada, Dr. Wallace's words are true: "The rural communities are the strength of the nation."

## Roll Call Featured

The Belleville convention again demonstrated to us the good-will which can be developed by Institute women with wide interests and sincere friendliness. The newly-elected chairman concluded the convention with a challenge to Institute women to accept their responsibilities as citizens to plan for post-war reconstruction. Congratulations are extended to the district representatives for their interesting response to the Roll Call, "Opportunities for Women in War Service". Much meat for thought was given by each one within her three minute time limit. "To Tommy With Love", a one-act play by one of the Institutes, provided a recreational half-hour at the evening session. The demonstration of Girls' Work at Belleville was outstanding.

At the time of writing conventions have still to be held in London, Kitchener, Hamilton and Toronto. Reports of these conventions will be found in the Winter Home and Country.

## KEEP INFORMED

Has your Institute appointed a liaison officer to represent you on the Wartime Prices and Trade Board? If not, do consider this at your next meeting and send the name of a representative to the chairman of the Women's Regional Advisory Committee for your region. If you do not know who the chairman is, write to Miss M. A. Clarke, Superintendent, Women's Institute Branch, Parliament Buildings, Toronto, for this information.

This liaison officer can act in two ways,—first, to present your questions to the Wartime Prices and Trade Board and to speak for you, and, second, to secure information for you from the W.P.T.B. which will keep you up-to-date.

Give the liaison officer a short time on every programme to receive questions and to present new information. Thus you will be helping the war effort.