

HOME AND COUNTRY

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Correspondence should be addressed to
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of Women's Institutes to the Women's
Institute members.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

A RURAL PARLIAMENT

We are certain that the heart of every Women's Institute member in the London convention area filled with pride when she read the editorial in the London Free Press in which the editor, referring to the topics discussed at the convention, stated: "Discussions such as these, and the general participation in them, made the Institute convention a parliament of rural women". High praise, this! And Institutes will have to plan well and work steadfastly to justify it.

There are so many vital questions which concern Institute members, that their problem will not be, "What can we do?", but, "Which, of the many things that need to be done, should we do?" It is a problem of selection, and every district, every Institute, has its own choice to make. That choice will depend upon the needs of your particular community. The Institute which chooses wisely is the one which succeeds.

Reading the Reports of Meetings which have reached the Department recently we selected three comments which showed us that these Institutes were choosing wisely and working effectively. One stated: "As a new secretary, having had only two years of village life, and having been an active city woman, I think this Institute is a credit to any group of women anywhere. I am proud to be actively interested". Another wrote, "Never before have we had such a good attendance, nor as many members". Another said, "The programmes brought the members closer together. I could not help noticing the feeling of fellowship that existed. Each person seemed anxious to be of service". Could these tributes be paid to your Institute?

It will take courage to face the year 1943, but Institutes have never lacked courage when convinced of the greatness of their cause. They will not lack courage now. They will go on with unceasing determination and strong resolution to really justify their reputation as a "parliament of rural women".

PROVINCIAL BOARD HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING



Back row—Mrs. R. Roblin, Bath; Mrs. A. McInnes, Iroquois; Mrs. A. Rundle, R.R. 3, Exeter; Mrs. C. Skipper, R.R. 1, Tilbury; Mrs. L. Morrissey, Charlton; Mrs. H. Summers, R.R. 1, Fonthill; Mrs. J. Jardine, R.R. 2, Collingwood; Mrs. J. H. Spier, R.R. 3, Brussels.

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Front row—Mrs. Wm. Wilson, Barwick; Mrs. J. Reid, R.R. 1, Islington; Mrs. J. H. Findlay, Arnprior; Mrs. C. Holmes, R.R. 3, Belleville (President); Honourable P. M. Dewar, Minister of Agriculture; Mrs. E. Duke, Port Carling (Hon. President); Miss Mary A. Clarke, Superintendent Ontario Women's Institutes; Mrs. W. B. Leatherdale, Coldwater (Secretary-Treasurer); Mrs. F. Oster, Blythe.

Mrs. Clarence Holmes of Belleville was elected president of the Ontario Women's Institutes at the annual meeting of the Provincial Board held in Toronto, in November. She succeeds Mrs. Ernest A. Duke, Port Carling, who for three years has guided the Institutes through a difficult war period.

Mrs. Duke presided at all sessions in courtesies, Mrs. Duke sympathetically referred to sorrow which had come to the family of the Hon. J. G. Gardiner, Federal Minister of Agriculture, in the loss of his son, Pilot Officer John Edwin Gardiner, killed in action raiding Dieppe. A letter of condolence was sent to the Hon. and Mrs. Gardiner.

President's Address

Mrs. Duke expressed the honour which had been hers in serving the Women's Institutes during her three year term of presidency. She extended appreciation to the directors, executive officers and members for their loyalty and co-operation at all times. She hoped that the W.I. programme would not be curtailed in any way and assured members of her continued support and best wishes.

In her resumé of her activities Mrs. Duke reported that it had required well over one hundred days from home. There had been many invitations which she had been unable to accept and in all cases greetings and regrets for absence had been sent. As president and convener of the Central Fund (War Charities) Committee some 215 personal letters had been written, as well as circular letters.

Superintendent's Report

Miss Mary A. Clarke, superintendent, brought greetings from the Department and addressed the Board members. She stated that she was encouraged about the work of the Women's Institutes in Ontario as evidenced at conventions and in reports.

The superintendent called upon the directors to support the Home Economics programme. The need for stimulating interest among younger women was pointed out as reports sometimes showed too high a proportion of older women at meetings.

This year nutrition work is being carried on in seventy-five districts. The Women's Institutes have pioneered in nutrition in Ontario, and are continuing this activity, taking their part in the Canadian nutrition campaign. To meet the problems facing homemakers today, a new study on household budgeting is being planned.

The Superintendent favoured the organization working toward the establishment of "equal educational opportunity for all children". She recommended that Institutes continue activity in this field.

Junior Activities

A letter from Miss Florence P. Eadie, Director of Girls' Work, W.I. Branch, Department of Agriculture, on behalf of herself and the Home Economics Coaches, conveyed appreciation for the interest of the senior Women's Institutes in the Junior Programme. She explained that C.G.I.T. and Girl Guide Groups may carry on the Homemaking Club Programme providing a leader from the organization attends the training school.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Mrs. W. B. Leatherdale reported that during the federation year more than 1,200 communications were written by the secretary. 9,576 W.I. song sheets, 164 hand books and 90 W.I. pins had been distributed.

The financial statement showed a balance of \$1,746.90, but expenditures for the year had exceeded receipts by \$349.05. (See page 4). According to federation fees received there was a falling off of some 2,500 members during the fiscal year. This was attributed to the movement of young women and many rural families to larger centres to take their place in war industry.

The secretary was instructed to write to Welland County Women's Institutes thanking them for their generous voluntary remittance of 15 cents per member, rather than the usual 10 cent federation fee, to help swell the treasury.

Standing Committees

The tentative Outline of Functions of Standing Committees was presented to the Provincial Board by the superintendent and was endorsed. This is now available to Institute, district, area and provincial conveners of standing committees of the Women's Institute.

There was lively discussion following the Publicity report and it was agreed that generally speaking Institutes could spend more for publicity and that this should be considered in relation to the total budget. Reference was made to Mrs. Price's publicity suggestions in "Federated News" as a guide.

In connection with the Historical Research committee there was a dis-

play of The Tweedsmuir Village Histories of Clute, Timmins and Island Falls Institutes in the Cochrane District, Stroud in Simcoe County and one from the District of West Northumberland.

War Work

Mrs. L. W. Challand reported the large amount of war work done and money raised for war charities by the combined efforts of the members of the Women's Institutes in the Province.

From figures reported, money raised for war work last year totalled \$124,376.83, knitted articles 126,807, articles of sewing 104,300. Among gifts of money, designations were made to the F.W.I.O. Central Fund, Jam For Britain, Sugar Fund, Canadian Red Cross, The Navy League, British War Victims' Funds, Russian Relief, Milk for Britain, gifts for enlisted men and other funds.

Stamps, certificates and bonds were bought by practically all Institutes.

Central Fund, F.W.I.O.

Mrs. Duke, as convener of the Central Fund, reported the year's activities. Receipts from January 1st to October 31st, totalled \$5,081.19, and, with amount brought forward, \$9,388.03. After meeting expenditures to date a balance of \$1,675.62 was on hand.

Through the Central Fund, Middlesex County Women's Institutes had contributed \$1,072.46 for a mobile kitchen. Directors from the London Area were asked to take the best wishes of the Provincial Board to Middlesex Women's Institutes for success in reaching their objective.

The Sugar Fund Statement reported by the superintendent showed receipts of \$2,163.66 from 298 contributions. Seventy tons of jam and honey had been shipped out of Toronto and it was hoped to meet the objective of 300,000 pounds. Provincial directors from the fruit-growing areas expressed themselves in favour of seeing the jam project continued next year.

Mrs. Clarence Holmes was elected convener of the Central Fund Committee succeeding Mrs. E. A. Duke. Voting directors include Mrs. L. W. Challand, Mrs. E. Patterson, Mrs. H. Summers and Mrs. J. Reid. Miss Mary A. Clarke is honorary member without voting power. Mrs. W. B. Leatherdale was re-appointed secretary-treasurer without voting power. This committee has power to add.

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