

HOME AND COUNTRY

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

REBUILDING FAMILY LIFE

As homemaking women, were you not inspired by the radio message of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth to the Women of the Empire on April 11th? Her Majesty, whose love of family life is deep and understanding, reminded us that the right rebuilding of our national life depends on the strength of our spiritual life and that our homes are the very places where this should start.

With the words of Her Majesty's address fresh in our memories, Women's Institutes will look forward to a new Institute year with renewed inspiration, with a strengthened conviction that whatever they can do to improve home and community life is a worthy work, and with careful thought for the future.

When we hear the word "reconstruction" is sounds so impersonal that we at once think of it as something outside our sphere of interest. But when we heard the Queen say "I look forward to a great rebuilding of family life as soon as the war ends", we can see where, both as individuals and as Institutes, we will have a part to play in reconstruction. What ideals will we hold for family life after the war? What factors are going to determine whether we can achieve these ideals? What can we do to help? These questions require most sincere and careful thought if we would accomplish our objectives.

Your programme committee will be busily planning next year's programme now. An objective is fundamental to a good programme. No other Institute can decide your objectives for you. Although their programme will help you in the formation of your own by presenting new ideas and stimulating thought, your objectives and programme will be determined by your own local situation,—by the needs of your own families and communities, by the interests of your members and by their talents.

So Institutes will proceed by different paths to the same final goal, all making some contribution to the "right rebuilding of our national life" beginning in the home.

CITIZENSHIP HAS THREE 'I'S

There are three "i's" in the word "citizenship" and this may help us to remember the following characteristics of a good citizen—intelligence, integrity and industry. Let us examine the opportunities in the work of the Women's Institutes which have helped and can continue to help us become better citizens.

Intelligence

The leaders of the Women's Institutes in Ontario have always maintained that the programmes of the monthly meetings should be of educational value. It is the same in other countries. Note this part of a letter by Lilla Russell, of London, England, to the International Women's News: "In the struggle for the vote, the need to educate the woman in the home was, it seems, overlooked, and in 1918 when the battle was over and the vote was, as it were, presented to the vast majority of women on a platter, they might almost as well have been presented with the head of John the Baptist. Completely ignorant of its significance, or of the wide use to which it might be put, they left it lying on the platter, or took it up only to use it as an echo of their men folk. The Women's Institutes have and will continue to eschew "party politics", but their whole aim has been the education of their members to the widest possible citizenship".

When I read the reports which came to me from the Area Conveners, I felt that the 1941-42 Institute Conveners of Legislation, Peace and International Relationships and Canadianization had been most faithful. Since the first aim of the Standing Committee on Citizenship, which has taken their place, is to create an intelligent public opinion, I am sure the Institute conveners will feel a special responsibility in the matter of bringing the very best information on current matters to the members. Refer to the 1942 Spring edition of the Home and Country for a discussion on sources of material.

Integrity

No member of any Standing Committee should ever feel that her work is done if her committee has been faithful in providing a good programme for one or more meetings. She should be constantly on the alert throughout the whole year for oppor-

tunities where she can give leadership in the work of her particular committee. These opportunities may arise in the business part of the meeting, or in community activities.

These three phrases occur in the original objectives of the Women's Institutes, "morals of our people", "uplift of the home", and "betterment of conditions surrounding community life". The members on the Citizenship committee should feel a responsibility in this matter as well as the officers on the Executive. We know that we should consider the integrity of candidates for public office, for he or she is going to hold a responsible position. Every citizen in a democracy has a responsibility, and so the integrity of the citizens is very important. A good motto for a short talk, or better still for discussion, is the old saying quoted by Miss Ethel Chapman in her address at the Hamilton Convention, "Men are the world's physical protectors, women are its moral protectors".

Industry

We all have heard the constructive criticism of our organization, as well as of other organizations, that while we make splendid studies of current problems, our members do not use them to solve the problems of our age. As citizens, we do not seem to understand that form of industry.

Could we occasionally turn the programme part of our meeting into a mock meeting, and discuss a subject, in the manner it could and might be discussed at a school meeting, a municipal council, or in parliament? Why not have a mock district annual with a resolution before it so that we might learn how important it is to gather facts to prove the need of a resolution; and also to learn how important a knowledge of the existing laws is, so that we may know whether to ask for new legislation, or for a stricter enforcement of present laws.

May I request the Institute conveners in Citizenship to send in to the District conveners full reports. These reports will pass on information given in the programme part of the meeting. I hope, however, they will also tell how your Institute is giving leadership in Citizenship to your community. This may be the more important part of your report.

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

SALVAGE FATS FOR CANADA

Canada needs all the explosives she can make; and to make these explosives she needs 40,000,000 pounds of fat a year. As homemakers, you are the key people in the salvage of fat. To your kitchens the country looks to replace the fat which formerly was imported from the Far East,—cocoanut oil and copra from the Philippines, palm oil from the Dutch East Indies and Malaya, tung oil from China.

When you have used what you need for cooking, then every spoonful of dripping and every ounce of scrap fat should be salvaged. No amount is too small. Even one tablespoonful per day makes a pound in a month. If every person in Canada can save 1 oz. per week the need will be met. Save more if you can, and continue to save as long as the war lasts.

You will want to save all the fat possible if you just think that among other uses:

For the Navy—6 pounds of fat will operate 1 depth charge release mechanism. But it takes 350 lbs. of fat to produce enough glycerine to fire 1 shell from a big 12-inch naval gun.

For the Army—1 pound of fat will supply propellant for four 27-mm. anti-aircraft shells.

For the Airforce—31 tablespoons of waste fat will fire 10 rounds of 50-calibre airplane cannon.

If, in your community, no organization has taken responsibility for a fat salvage campaign, we hope that

your Women's Institute will work to make people conscious of the need for fat salvage and to see that all surplus fat is collected.

The question is frequently asked: "How will we dispose of waste fat?" Here is the answer.

1. Strain all drippings through an ordinary strainer into a clean, wide-mouthed can. Keep good dripping separate from scrap fat. Keep in a cool place.

2. When you have collected a pound or more take it to your meat dealer who will pay you the established price for the dripping or scrap fat.

Or, you can dispose of it through the salvage collection system in effect in your community.

Prices paid per lb. by retail meat dealers are:

East of Head of the Lakes:
Rendered dripping (in tin cans)
4½ cents.

Household scrap fat 1 cent.

West of Head of the Lakes:
Rendered dripping (in tin cans)
4 cents.

Household scrap fat 1 cent.

If you wish further information or have any questions, apply to:

Mr. Jas. C. Gray, Ontario Supervisor,
National Salvage Division,
207 Royal Bank Building,
Toronto.

"The hand that holds the frying pan will win the war".

THE AGRICULTURAL BATTLE

(Continued from page 1, col. 3.)

like to feel they have a definite share in the war. Would Victory Gardens of their own appeal to those who have not been accustomed to much hoeing or weeding? On farms where there may be spare space, perhaps a boy or girl would like to raise his own pen of laying hens and care for them through the winter. Where sheep are not kept, perhaps a youngster could find a corner to shelter a few ewes in winter. The feed required would scarcely be missed, many weeds would be cropped short and the young shepherd would take pride in adding to the short wool supply.

High school students, over 8,000 boys and 7,000 girls, assisted greatly to relieve the farm shortage in 1942. The number will be appreciably increased this year. The success of this plan was due very largely to the nutritious meals and home comforts provided by farm women. "Teen agers" are very similar, whether rural or urban and all enjoy and need an abundance of good food.

In fruit sections over 2,000 girls were placed in camps last year, but many did a surprisingly good job on dairy and mixed farms. More girls than boys are available now and it is therefore suggested Institute members might encourage the use of girls in mixed farming areas.

Physical fitness is of first importance to any army, and months are spent in attaining it. Our soldiers are much better fed than their fathers were 25 years ago. Nutritious foods and other requirements of good health are of first importance to the army of farm workers. It is clear therefore that Ontario farm women in 1943 may make their greatest war contribution through the job at which they are most expert.

Post War Plans

It is not too early to talk about post war plans. We have had a very recent experience in winning a war and losing the peace. We can promote our war jobs more efficiently if we have faith in what peace will bring. Many are wondering what will happen to markets for farm products, having in mind, for instance, that before the war Canada supplied 20 per cent of Britain's bacon requirements and now ships 75 per cent. When hostilities cease we shall see the greatest demand for food the world has ever known. Then, too, Europe must be rehabilitated with stock and seed. As a matter of fact we are now shipping seed, and from one county, there has gone within the past few weeks, 13,000 bushels of seed grain to Switzerland.

Conservation will be very prominent in post war plans. Conservation of soil, water and wild life are all important, but unless human conservation receives first consideration other ambitious plans will wither and die. Unless we can encourage the right type of boys and girls to stay on our farms, these other worthy goals will not be reached. The Women's Institutes are admirably equipped to render service in this direction. For years they have been giving leadership in rural education, farm home economics, the creation and enjoyment of beauty, and in fact promoting a rural culture which renders farm life interesting and enjoyable. Their broad programme and achievements have inspired rural women throughout the world.

In the opinion of the writer there never has been a year when Institutes have had a greater opportunity to serve in numerous vital ways, only a few of which have been mentioned. It is his earnest hope that each Branch will promote an aggressive programme and that none may feel that the support of the Institute should be dropped in the belief that more effective service can be rendered through other channels.

(Contributed by J. A. Carroll, Ontario Department of Agriculture).