

**HOME AND COUNTRY**

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This paper is distributed through the secretaries of Women's Institutes to the Women's Institute members.

**EDITORIAL COMMENT**

**LOOK TO THE FUTURE**

The phrase "The Youth of today is the man of tomorrow" has become so commonplace that it has almost lost its meaning. But if we will read it thoughtfully we realize that it is important to every Canadian citizen. The youth of today IS the man of tomorrow, — and Women's Institute members will be concerned for their well-being.

Their education is important. Are you sufficiently interested in this that you will work, and influence others, to see that each child in your community has all the advantages of modern education? If you think that the school system does not give them the training needed for the development of the best that is in them, to prepare them for modern life, will you try to improve this? We know, from reports, that many Institutes do take an active interest in the education of their youth. We would like all Institutes to be so concerned.

Many of our Institutes express concern for the health of our young people, too. Clinics, first aid kits in schools, hot school lunches are among the enterprises promoted by Institutes. Today Institutes are becoming more and more interested in preventive health measures which include such features as good nutrition, sanitation, or regular health examinations.

Then there is concern for the recreational and cultural development of youth. Possibly your help is needed here. Are your homes and your community facilities adequate now and will they encourage the return of your young people after the war?

The Women's Institute Branch is particularly interested in homemaking clubs for girls. On page 3 you may read of the activities of these girls. Again we appeal to you for leadership and support. This will pay your Institute dividends, too. A letter received recently from the Fallbrook Women's Institute tells of the appointment of a local leader and the organization of a Supper Club following the

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**DISTRICT ANNUALS REPORT WORK DONE**

District annual meetings were held in 98 districts in May and June. A spirit of friendly cooperation, of sincere purpose and of faith in the Women's Institutes as a rural women's organization prevailed these meetings. Members reviewed their work of the past year, planned activities for the coming year and looked on further into the future, realizing that "the importance of the Women's Institutes as a group of organized women is, and will be, only limited as your vision is limited".

Rain or shine the meetings were well attended when compared with the past two years, although attendance is not so high as at the outbreak of war. In South Oxford where they were celebrating the 40th Anniversary of their organization they thought that in some ways conditions in 1943 were not so different from those of 1903 when their first report stated that "it is often difficult to get a horse to attend the summer meetings". The most encouraging aspect of the attendance was the very high proportion of Institutes represented by their full quota of voting delegates. This must have been very much appreciated by the district officers as indicative of sincere interest in the work of the district.

**Reports Are Important**

Capable, loyal officers and conveners of committees again showed their worth. They had planned programmes carefully and most conveners had compiled reports clearly and concisely. From the district secretaries, and the district conveners of standing committees the perennial plea for more reports and earlier reports was still heard. If every Institute secretary and convener would take seriously her responsibility, and send her report to the district convener in good time, what inspiring and informative reports could be given next year. This is not too much to ask,—that support be given to your own elected officers who serve in the interest of your district and of your Institute.

**War Work is Featured**

War work reports were generally most complete and, hearing them, members were proud of the accomplishments of their organization. Congratulations should be extended especially to those districts like Simcoe East and Huron South which not only carried on good work but presented their reports in tabulated form so that it was easy for the audience to follow and for the press to report. War work included such a variety of items that it is impossible to enumerate them here but the ever-increasing interest in the F.W.I.O. Central Fund and the support of "Jam for Britain" are worthy of special mention. Congratulations go to that Institute where every member has pledged to write one letter a month to a soldier, sailor or airman (or woman) from the community.

Reports of all standing committees were given at practically every meeting. These reports showed how the committees could function effectively during wartime.

The committees on Agriculture and Canadian Industries were interested in new farm crops (such as soybeans, milkweed, etc.) and new industries; in the farm labour problem; in the Federation of Agriculture and farm forums; in improving rural life.

Citizenship received general support and more and more attention was focused, not alone on community and national citizenship, but on world citizenship. One roll call reported was "Did you attend the annual school meeting?" Another was "A quotation on peace". Thought of post-war planning was ever to the fore.

In Social Welfare, education and health received most attention. The larger area of administration, the objectives of education, and the responsi-

bilities of W.I. members to the local schools were all stressed. The health needs and activities of districts varied greatly. There was general interest in special plans for government-supported health services and, in addition, each district had its own activities e.g. St. Joseph's Island distributes dulce to school children, Addington is active in securing dental and eye inspection.

Home Economics was never neglected. The response to the Cooperative Programme in Home Economics, submitted by the Women's Institute Branch of the Department of Agriculture was good. 13 districts selected service in clothing and textiles; 30 in food and nutrition; 10 in special services; 31 in health education and 23 in administrative leadership. In addition 112 short courses are being arranged for Institutes. Institutes have been in the vanguard in the promotion of such work throughout the province and interest continues.

Historical Research continued to remind members that the present is built on the past. Some interesting Tweedsmuir Village Histories were displayed at Middlesex West. There are still Institutes who are in doubt about what these Histories are and convention conveners of this committee might do well to arrange for a display of outstanding books at conventions this fall.

Publicity reports brought forth new suggestions. In Lanark South the Institutes have an Institute ring on the telephone. It means that the officers have Institute news for all to hear, and one call serves the line. Streetsville have 3 excellent posters with a border design on which monthly announcements are placed.

Very few districts retained separate Institute reports.

**Special Features**

Special features contributed much to several programmes. These can be informative, can give suggestions to Institutes for local programmes and can provide variety for the meeting. A quiz on the handbook was held in Kent East. Addington district sent a quiz on important people to each Institute a week before the meeting and two teams were made up of representatives from each Institute. Names included in the list ranged from Mary Craig McGeachy to Vincent Massey, T. V. Soong, Mrs. C. Holmes or "Buzz" Beurling. Such features are most effective when carried out quickly (never more than 10 or 15 minutes) and with spirit.

Interesting roll calls, which too must be brief, added value to meetings. Typical topics used were "The one most outstanding activity of our Institute this year", "The date of organization, and membership then and now".

Those district meetings went smoothly where business was dealt with early in the day. Many districts could still benefit from more discussion of business and of reports. Time

(Continued in next column)

**APPEAL FOR QUILTS**

The British Minesweepers' Auxiliary has appealed for quilts made from woollen sock tops. Would your Institute like to respond to this special appeal?

**"What Can I Do to Help the British Minesweepers?"**

You could save woollen sock tops and when you have enough you can make a warm blanket for a minesweeper.

Cut off the tops of a pair of worn-out socks; open them up the middle and you have two squares. Button-hole them together with coloured wool and then make strips by overcasting the finished squares together.

Completed quilt should be 48 x 72. When finished send to the British Minesweepers' Auxiliary, Room 41-12 Bloor Street East, Toronto. From here the blankets will be shipped overseas to the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen, where they will be distributed to the gallant minesweepers of the British navy".

**APPEAL FOR RECORDS**

For the Navy, for the Army, for the Air Force, used records are needed. The Active Service Music Depot, the distributing centre for music for all our armed Services, has sent out a call for 1,000,000 records for men and women in active service. Good records will be sent out to camps as requested by auxiliary service officers; old records will be sold and the money used to purchase new ones.

Have you old records to contribute? If so, turn them over to your local committee, if there is one: if there is no local committee, write direct to The Active Service Music Depot, 102 King St. West, Toronto, for further information.

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allowed for this on the programme and provocative suggestions by conveners would help stimulate this.

One noticeable change from last year was the small number of resolutions brought forward. Many districts had none presented. Was this a good thing? Resolutions should not be presented just for the sake of having resolutions. But does this lack of resolution indicate a complacent attitude of satisfaction with things as they are, or that there are no matters on which Institute members feel that action is needed badly enough for them to express their opinions to help to secure the desired changes.

The social side of the district annuals, while simplified, continued to provide relaxation and a friendly interchange of ideas not frequently possible in these busy days. A simple lunch together, a chat between sessions, singing in unison drew all members into closer fellowship.

Judging by the district meetings, Institutes of Ontario may look forward to a new year of continued success and progress.

**WOMEN'S INSTITUTE CONVENTIONS**

Place	Building	Date
Sheguindah	Municipal Hall	Sept. 7
Massey	Hall	Sept. 9, 10
Emo	Tompkin's Hall	Sept. 14, 15
Englehart		Oct. 5, 6
Burk's Falls	Parish Hall	Oct. 7, 8
Barrie	Public Library, Collier St.	Oct. 12
Ottawa	Chateau Laurier	Oct. 19, 20
Kingston	Convocation Hall, Queen's University	Oct. 21, 22
Belleville	Y.M.C.A., Campbell St.	Oct. 28, 29
London	Hotel London	Nov. 2, 3, 4
Guelph	United Church, Norfolk St.	Nov. 4, 5
Hamilton	Royal Connaught Hotel	Nov. 9, 10
	Crystal Ball Room	
Toronto	Royal York Hotel	Nov. 10, 11, 12

Note: Toronto Area—Citizenship Reports should be sent to Mrs. L. Reesor, Scarboro Junction, Ontario.