

ENGLISH HOME AND COUNTRY

A copy of the Home and Country, the magazine of the National Federation of Women's Institutes of England has been received recently. The two following items will interest members.

Three Generations

Sandringham (Norfolk) now has the distinction of three generations of one family as members, for H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth joined the Sandringham W.I. at a recent monthly meeting. The Queen is president jointly with Queen Mary, who has been president since the formation of the Institute. Those who saw Princess Elizabeth put on her W. I. badge rejoiced that she would be carrying on, in the third generation, the practical interest which her mother and grandmother have always been pleased to show in their own village W.I. For us all it is a happy thing to have another new member who is not 17.

The Women's Institute Reporter (This will interest secretaries and publicity conveners)

Of course no W.I. reporter suffers from want of things to write about. How could she?

NEWS is the meat of a report: the rest—style, manner and so on—is just the cooking. But remember that the meaning of NEWS is "something fresh". After reading twelve annual reports, with a long course of enjoyable outings to everywhere from Windsor Castle to the Zoo, it is quite refreshing to be told—"We had no outing this summer; money was not forthcoming and we began to think about it too late".

Be interested, for then (and then only) shall we be interesting. A well-known journalist criticizing Home and Country said he would rather have glow and bad grammar than lifelessness and the King's English.

But the King's English is good English; it puts things economically. And space is valuable—never more than today.

How shall we write, then? The same journalist said write the things you would want to tell your editor if you met her at lunch, and as far as possible in the language in which you would talk to her. "No fine words. Not so many 'enjoyable' outings and 'appreciated' talks. She would want to know where you went and what he said."

Of course, writing every month or so, we must have some business. But often the smallest touch will make a new thing of an old subject. Example—All group reports (naturally) mention their teas, but one said, "Tea is served in lap style by the Committee". Result—we remember that meeting.

Small Improvements. 1. Not too much routine, that's for the minute book. We know the president took the chair and secretary read the report. We can even guess you sang "Jerusalem". If the secretary (as happens in some gifted villages) read the report in rhyme, by all means mention it.

2. Not too many names. When your audience is your own village names are popular, when it's all England they simply mean nothing. All England would be thrilled to hear that a meeting had four great-grandmothers present, but not so thrilled to hear that they were Mrs. Green, Mrs. Brown, Lady Black and Mrs. Whiting.

3. Jokes? Well, of course, if they bubble up naturally. No exclamation marks, please! A good joke doesn't need them.

4. Poetry? Only if really worth it. Verses are very extravagant of space.

5. Punctuation, commas, dashes, brackets? They come with practice. It's a tough job, reporting, especially in these word saving days. But where—we would like to know—would Home and Country be without us?

FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF CANADA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 1943



Front Row (left to right): Mrs. L. B. Mellish, Prince Edward Island, Past Treasurer; Mrs. T. L. Townsend, Manitoba, Treasurer; Mrs. P. Collier, Saskatchewan, 1st Vice-President; Mrs. H. A. Dunham, New Brunswick, Past President; Mrs. Cameron Dow, Quebec, President; Mrs. C. Holmes, Ontario, 2nd Vice-President; Mrs. F. Gates, Prince Edward Island, Recording Secretary; Mrs. S. Trenholm, Nova Scotia, Past Recording Secretary; Mrs. E. A. Duke, Ontario, Past 2nd Vice-President.
Second Row (left to right): Mrs. M. I. Thompson, Alberta; Mrs. E. E. Morton, Alberta; Mrs. B. F. Gummow, British Columbia; Mrs. W. C. Leard, Prince Edward Island; Mrs. E. Saunders, New Brunswick, Past Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. W. B. Leatherdale, Ontario; Mrs. C. E. Medland, Saskatchewan; Mrs. B. A. Parsons, Nova Scotia; Mrs. V. B. Robinson, British Columbia; Mrs. H. C. Ward, Nova Scotia.
Back row (left to right): Mrs. G. Humphrey, New Brunswick; Mrs. M. Wade, Saskatchewan; Mrs. W. H. Prescott, New Brunswick; Miss F. McKay, Manitoba; Mrs. C. E. Petch, Quebec; Miss M. A. Clarke, Ontario.

THINK NATIONALLY

(Continued from page 1, col. 3)

On Wednesday, June second, the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario entertained at a luncheon in the Roof Garden, to which Provincial board directors, area chairmen, area secretaries, members of the Staff of the Women's Institutes Branch and women editors of farm papers were invited. Mrs. Albert Matthews, wife of the lieutenant-governor of Ontario was guest of honour and graciously addressed the ladies, following luncheon. Mrs. Matthews, in her words of welcome, spoke of how much the rural women had contributed to the welfare of Canada and said that even the man most hesitant in his approval of women's organizations, would say "The Women's Institutes are all right". "The country women have initiative and individuality, and rural opinion is always a sound opinion", said Mrs. Matthews. In conclusion Mrs. Matthews quoted from Her Majesty the Queen—"You have given all that is good in you, regardless of self—our men are counting on us at all times to be steadfast and faithful". Mrs. Holmes presided and Mrs. Dow expressed appreciation to Mrs. Matthews.

F.W.I.C. President's Address

The afternoon session, with Mrs. Ernest Duke presiding, was open to all members of Women's Institutes throughout the province, and many availed themselves of this opportunity. Mrs. H. A. Dunham, C.B.E., in her presidential address, spoke on the meaning and purpose of the F.W.I.C. with its duty to coordinate the whole movement in Canada. She referred to an editorial, written when Judge Emily Murphy was president, which said "there has arisen a power whose influence knows no bounds". With all due respect to the demands and campaigns of other organizations, Mrs. Dunham urged Women's Institutes to look to their own organization as a clearing house for their activities.

She compared the Women's Institutes to a tree. The leaves are the individual members; the small twigs are the Institutes; the larger branches are the districts; the very large main branches are the provincial federations and the main trunk, which gives unity and strength to all, is the F.W.I.C. If a leaf falls from the tree, or even if a small branch is broken off, the tree will continue to flourish without much loss of vigour or symmetry; if many branches or large branches drop off, the tree will

lose symmetry and some of its vigour but may continue to live; but if the main trunk is severed the tree dies. So is the national federation essential for the wellbeing of the Institutes.

Mrs. H. P. Plumtree, C.B.E., director of prisoners of war parcels, Canadian Red Cross Society, told of seventy thousand parcels packed with food each week in Canada sent to prisoners of war. She brought to the meeting the five hundred thousandth card received from a grateful prisoner.

Miss Byrne Hope Sanders, director, Consumer Branch of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board, told of her work, mentioning the sugar rationing. She urged women to use intelligence, good humour and a view beyond their own home in this "sugar misery"; to succeed in holding stability at home. Miss Sanders called on Miss Laura Pepper of the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa, to explain about the sugarless canning which they hoped that rural people particularly, would use.

Miss Lillian Webb sang several songs. One was written by her accompanist, Mrs. Jean Atkinson, who for several years was a representative of the Ontario Women's Institutes to the Associated Country Women of the World, when she lived in England.

Reports of conveners of standing committee were given,—outlines will appear in the Federated News. Mrs. W. B. Leatherdale's report on Agriculture and Canadian Industries was one of the outstanding reports received. "That a rural woman cognizant of the rural problems be put on the Consumer Branch of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board" is the desire of the F.W.I.C.

Citizenship Stressed

Mrs. Milton Wade, Sask., in reporting on Citizenship, stressed the need for tolerance and knowledge for this committee. There is a great need for better rural libraries. In referring to national events, Mrs. Wade mentioned the "Commonwealth Air Training Plan" for its far reaching influence. The youth of all countries are meeting and living together, and will never be strangers again.

Mrs. Alfred Watt, O.B.E., president of the Associated Countrywomen of the World, brought greetings from the international organization and addressed the meeting briefly. To this organization have come, as life members, such distinguished women as Madame Chiang Kai-shek, Professor Winnifred Cullis and others. "The farm women because they

are a trusted group in the community, because they are a hard working unselfish group of women, often take on more interests than they should", Mrs. Watt stated. "Their primary work should be the production and conservation of food. Their first job should be to conserve family life and the religion and morals of the country. When women do this, they make a great contribution and they should avoid too many interests."

Miss Ethel Chapman was guest speaker at the concluding evening session. The Women's Institute, she said, acts as an agent carrying education throughout the provinces. It is broad in its outlook and gives an opportunity for women to serve their country at home. In closing, Miss Chapman asked if we wished Canada to be a Switzerland, a meeting place, or a Belgium, a fighting ground? As Canadians we have a grave duty.

Gift From Ontario

As a remembrance of the biennial meeting held in Ontario in 1943, the presentation to each board member of Miss Powell's book "Forty Years Agrowing" was made by Ontario's president and secretary.

The slate of officers for 1943-45 is as follows:

Honorary President—Mrs. H. A. Dunham, Havelock, N.B.
President—Mrs. Cameron Dow, Port Daniel Centre, Que.
1st Vice-president—Mrs. T. Collier, Bracken, Sask.
2nd Vice-president—Mrs. Clarence Holmes, Belleville, Ont.
Recording Secretary—Mrs. Fred Gates, West Royalty, P.E.I.
Treasurer—Mrs. T. E. Townsend, Birtle, Man.
Executive—Mrs. C. Ward, Berwick, N.S.; Mrs. G. Humphrey, Hampton, N.B.; Mrs. C. E. Petch, Hemmingford, Que.; Mrs. E. E. Morton, Vegreville, Alta.; Mrs. C. E. Medland, Saskatoon; Mrs. V. B. Robinson, Penticton, B.C.
Conveners of Standing Committees:
Citizenship—Mrs. Milton Wade, Glenbush, Sask.
Home Economics—Mrs. B. A. Parsons, Walton, N.S.
Agriculture and Canadian Industries—Mrs. W. Dusterhoft, B.C.
Social Welfare—Mrs. H. R. Evans, Innisfree, Alta.
Publicity—Mrs. J. F. Price, Vancouver, B.C.
War Services—Mrs. E. E. Morton, Vegreville, Alta.
Other board directors will be announced later by the Provinces.