

# HOME and COUNTRY

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## A MESSAGE TO THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF ONTARIO



Conditions created by the war have presented a real challenge to the farm women of Ontario and through their Women's Institutes in all parts of the Province they have made a magnificent response to that challenge. As Minister of Agriculture, I am proud to have the Women's Institutes come within the scope of my Department because of the important part which they can play in promoting a more stable and prosperous rural community in Ontario. The reports which have come to me of your purely wartime activities indicate that you are not only raising large sums of money for worthy war purposes, but are giving freely of your time and the work of your hands for the relief of distress in war-torn areas and for the comfort of those in the fighting services. In the post-war years there will still be a great work for you to do. You can give leadership in helping to solve the problems confronting our farm youth and in improving rural education. You will have your part to play in raising standards of rural life and providing a more even balance between rural and urban conditions. In all your efforts you can depend upon my sympathetic interest and whole-hearted support.

THOMAS L. KENNEDY,  
Minister of Agriculture for Ontario.

## MRS. HOLMES REPRESENTS RURAL WOMEN

That the importance of women in rural life is being recognized was evidenced, when at the request of the Hon. Geo. A. Drew, Premier of Ontario, and the Hon. T. L. Kennedy, Minister of Agriculture, the Women's Institutes of Ontario sent 10 delegates to the Agricultural Conference held at the Royal York Hotel, September 2nd and 3rd. Farm youth was represented too, and three Junior Homemaking Club girls attended.

As a result of that conference an "Ontario Agricultural Inquiry Commission" was appointed and Mrs. Clarence Holmes was selected to represent farm women. This commission is the first of its kind in Ontario and it will make recommendations to the Government concerning agricultural policy and rural life.

One meeting of the commission has been held and Mrs. Holmes has been appointed chairman of a sub-committee on the extension of rural youth organizations and on rural education.

## LETTERS FOR AUSTRALIA

Members of the Women's Institutes will no doubt be interested in the following extract from a letter received recently from Mrs. W. E. Sargood, the letter friend secretary in Australia:

"Many Australians have but a hazy idea of Canada, and none, of the beauty of its lands and hospitality of its people. As I have been in Canada I can speak feelingly. I visited Toronto in 1915 when on my way to England during the Great War. I have never forgotten your beautiful city or the many lovely places I visited on my return journey in 1919.

If you can send any further names of your members wanting links with us we can give them correspondents very quickly. I feel sure that this method of cementing closer ties between us is a good one."

Are any of the Ontario members willing to respond to this appeal? Write to Mrs. A. E. Barber, Women's Institute Branch, Parliament Buildings, Toronto.

## SEPTEMBER CONVENTIONS

"A goodly thing it is to meet  
In Friendship's Circle bright."

was exemplified at the sessions of the Women's Institute conventions at Sheguiandah, Massey and Emo.

It has always been my desire to travel through Northwestern Ontario, and when in company with our superintendent, Miss Mary A. Clarke, I, as your president, had the opportunity of attending these meetings my pleasure knew no bounds.

To one who has always lived near Belleville, the Northland impressed me very much with its rugged hills, myriad lakes and towering trees standing sentinel against the horizon. The sky and the sunsets were particularly beautiful. The train ride around the head of Lake Superior in the morning was delightful, and, on our return trip, the autumnal colouring of the foliage added to the beauty of the landscape.

Manitoulin Island is very beautiful and our drive from Little Current to Sheguiandah was all too short. Later the ride from Emo to Kenora was full of interest, especially when a moose and her calf forced the bus driver to a standstill. The view from the highway bridge at Massey still remains vivid.

How fortunate we are to be living in Ontario, endowed with such a heritage. As Institute members, we must be concerned for the future of our province and country.

### Health of the Nation

The theme of the conventions was "The Health of the Nation is Our Responsibility". In speaking to this, Miss Clarke said that a healthy nation must be developed physically, culturally, economically and politically. Our responsibility is to set standards, to study and to work to apply them locally and nationally.

East and West Manitoulin convened at Sheguiandah on September Seventh. Mr. Stevens, in welcoming the delegates, told us the name Sheguiandah meant "slate rock" or something solid, which might well be applied to our organization. The public health nurse for Manitoulin, addressed the meeting telling of her work in the schools and clinics. Three defects in vision had been corrected through the penny contributions of the Junior Red Cross. The Women's Institutes of the Island contribute to the Red Cross hospital at Mindemoya and have recently purchased a used X-Ray machine. Last year they were responsible for installing an electric refrigerator.

Next year this convention will be held at Poplar.

St. Joseph's Island, Algoma East, Centre and North Shore comprise the area which met at Massey, September 9 and 10. Mrs. Eggesfield, presiding for the opening session, in her remarks suggested that as a result of the work accomplished, Women's Institutes might say, "I have done good work".

Dr. Donnelly, Massey, was an interesting speaker at the afternoon session when he spoke on the subject "Homemakers Accept the Responsibility for the Health of the Nation". He discussed prevention of sickness and emergencies, giving many practical home remedies. The Agricultural Representative of Sudbury district, Mr. L. Leroux, was another speaker. He addressed the delegates, stressing the advantages of T. B.-tested herds and eradication of Bangs disease and mammitis.

Mrs. T. E. Dawson, Provincial Board Director for Algoma, St. Joseph's Island and Manitoulin Island, addressed both conventions, giving high lights of district annuals. The convention accepted Iron Bridge's invitation to convene there next year.

Approximately one hundred and fifty delegates from Thunder Bay, Kenora, East and West Rainy River assembled at Emo on the fourteenth and fifteenth. At the opening session Rev. W. Bray, Emo, spoke on "Youth Work". It was interesting to learn of the Advisory Council set up in Emo to provide facilities for worthwhile activities and entertainment for young people. Women's Institutes are conscious of the needs of youth and may provide leadership in directing youth to develop a life of service. The discussion on this theme was particularly good.

Fort Frances will entertain the convention next year.

Mrs. Wm. Wilson represents Kenora and Rainy River districts and Mrs. A. Manley will represent Thunder Bay, on the Provincial Board. Mrs. Wilson presented the resolutions and dealt with them.

Between the afternoon and evening sessions of the first day, the delegates were privileged to inspect the Red Cross Hospital at Emo, through the kind invitation of the matron, Miss Alton.

In reporting on the standing committees I should like to select the outstanding activities but space will not permit.

Some Institutes reported giving each convener ten minutes to present material at each meeting. Others reported dividing their membership into groups, according to the standing committees in which they are specializing. In this way each member is responsible for some phase of Institute activity and study.

### War Work

War work demands special commendation. Hundreds of articles of sewing and hundreds of pairs of socks and knitted articles were reported, as well as blood donors, the buying of savings bonds and stamps, contributions to the Central Fund and salvage drives. One W.I. has a war commentator at each meeting using maps. Another has compiled a Remembrance Book, containing names of boys and girls enlisted and an account of war work done. W. I. members are serving with distinction on the Home Front.

Constructive discussions were led by Miss Clarke on all reports and question boxes helped solve many problems. Assembly singing, musical selections, readings and violin solos added greatly to the enjoyment of the programme. In spite of wartime restrictions the attendance at the conventions was good and the serving of wholesome meals merits commendation.

To the Women's Institute members gathered together for conventions at Sheguiandah, Massey and Emo, may I say I believe you are

"Seeking the common weal  
The good of all mankind."

And to all Institute members—"Let us keep shining the light which the man on the battlefield, and the woman working to bring nearer the days of peace, dreams of as coming from their homes, and let us challenge any who would take the picture from us."

(Contributed by Mrs. Clarence Holmes, President, F.W.I.O.)