

HOME AND COUNTRY

Published quarterly by
The Federated Women's Institutes
of Ontario
and
The Women's Institute Branch
Department of Agriculture
Ontario

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE:

Mrs. C. Holmes, R.R. 3, Belleville.
Miss Mary A. Clarke, Toronto.

MEMBERS OF PROVINCIAL BOARD:
1942-43

Honorary Presidents:

Miss Mary A. Clarke, Toronto.
Mrs. E. A. Duke, Port Carling.

President:

Mrs. Clarence Holmes, R.R. 3, Belleville.

Vice-Presidents:

Mrs. H. Summers, R.R. 1, Fonthill.
Mrs. A. Rundle, R.R. 3, Exeter.
Mrs. R. C. Butler, Port Carling.

Directors on the Executive:

Mrs. A. McInnes, Iroquois.
Mrs. T. D. Cowan, R.R. 3, Galt.
Mrs. F. E. Birdsall, R.R. 1, Birdsall.
Mrs. Fred Oster, Blythe.
Mrs. J. Cooper, 209 N. Marks St., Fort William.

Additional Directors:

Mrs. J. H. Findlay, Arnprior.
Mrs. Reade Roblin, R.R. 1, Bath.
Mrs. H. Wicks, Cobourg.
Mrs. J. Reid, R.R. 1, Irlington.
Mrs. Edgar Patterson, Shelburne.
Mrs. Chas. Skipper, R.R. 1, Tilbury.
Mrs. J. H. Spier, R.R. 3, Brussels.
Mrs. L. W. Challand, R.R. 5, Simcoe.
Mrs. J. Jardine, R.R. 2, Collingwood.
Mrs. T. E. Dawson, R.R. 2, Sault Ste. Marie.
Mrs. L. Morrissey, Charlton.
Mrs. Wm. Wilson, Barwick.

Secretary-Treasurer:

Mrs. W. B. Leatherdale, Coldwater.

Correspondence should be addressed to

"HOME AND COUNTRY"

The Women's Institute Branch
Department of Agriculture
Parliament Buildings, Toronto

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

EDITORIAL COMMENT

WHEELS OF THE W. I.

Those of us who have the privilege of visiting Women's Institutes in all parts of the province and of meeting Institute members from other provinces, and countrywomen from other nations, are being reminded constantly of the greatness of our organization. We realize that it can be a powerful force in promoting national unity by making us feel more deeply our kinship with the women of Prince Edward Island or of British Columbia, with whom we are united "For Home and Country". Our international association with the countrywomen of other lands takes us further still, and it cannot fail to make us leaders in promoting understanding between nations.

But the privilege of membership brings its own responsibilities—Ontario Institutes can not rest on the laurels of the past. We can not be content to recall with pride that the first W. I. was organized in Ontario or to quote our achievements of the past and stop there. We need to be more alive today than ever,—and that responsibility rests on the shoulders of every Institute and of every member.

Is your Institute progressive? Is your membership growing? Have you a good attendance at meetings? Are your meetings educational so that the members consider them both valuable and interesting? Are your members enthusiastic about the organization,—so enthusiastic that they are willing to work for it and to interest others in it? These are simple tests of the life of your Institute.

Only as each Institute is strong will the whole organization be strong. The successful carrying on of your Institute work is like the smooth working of a big machine with many clogged wheels, each cog fitting accurately into the place in relation to every other cog. If one fails, all suffer. If all function well, great work can be accomplished.

AGRICULTURE AND
CANADIAN INDUSTRIES

The old saying, "A woman's work is never done", is truer today than ever before. With our effort to produce to the utmost, and the scarcity of manpower, it sometimes seems an impossibility to accomplish all we must. And yet, in spite of all this the best motto which can be adopted by farm women today is "Do it now". You ask "Why?" Because by the time you have decided to do one chore so many other unlooked for chores have arisen in the meantime that often, one that has waited to be done, just never gets done. So, I say, when the thought comes of doing any necessary chore "DO IT NOW".

By the time this Home and Country is in your hands it will be nearly in your hands it will be nearly Christmas and all produce from the Victory Gardens will have been stored away. Do see that these are stored in such a way as to insure their keeping. An excellent method of keeping vegetables crisp and fresh is by packing them in large boxes with sawdust. Put layer for layer of carrots or beets, etc. with the sawdust. Be sure though to keep this sawdust moist. Those precious apples which you were unable to preserve by sugar, store in a cool dry place.

Changes in Agriculture

Agriculture, as well as Industry, has been undergoing revolutionary changes. Farmers are now being asked, and are responding nobly, to not only produce food but also products to aid the manufacturing industries. Fields of milkweed for the manufacture of rubber, sunflowers for oil, soybeans for proteins and rape for submarine oil are changing the appearance of our Ontario rural landscape. Our great problem is to be able to produce these without curtailing our food production.

You will have heard much by now about the Committee of Inquiry appointed at the Agricultural Conference held on September 2nd and 3rd. The opportunities for service to Agriculture presented to this Committee are tremendous, and we women of the Institutes of Ontario may feel content that we have so able a representative on the Committee in the person of our Provincial President, Mrs. Clarence Holmes, to speak for our needs.

With the news of the wonderful successes our troops are having victory seems much closer these days, but it is still in the future, and after we do have peace again it will be many years before we are back to normal. Therefore, we must continue to produce and produce, for upon Canada is placed the great responsibility of feeding not only our own nation and allies, but of supplying food for all our prisoners and the people of the countries that we will be occupying or which are freed. The extension of the war over practically the whole world, and the increasing fury of the conflict by sea, land and air are convincing proofs of the absolute necessity for the greatest possible united war effort on the part of all Canadians. Our Industries are largely converted to war production. Vast stores of equipment and supplies have been manufactured and a greater programme is under way. This is all commendable and encouraging, but is there anyone, who, looking over the raging world, will say that it is enough? The answer is a resounding NO. From the Farms, Forests, Mines and Fisheries must come the necessary supplies. The part to be played by industry is important. Men without machinery and equipment are of little use. They cannot fight without weapons and supplies, food and transport. But put first things first and in this war fighting comes first and peace will never be achieved until victories are won. This is the task to which we must bend every effort. We must fight and work and pay and sacrifice. Let no one ever think that he or she is doing enough. The constant question must be "What more can I do?"

(Contributed by Mrs. F. E. Birdsall, Provincial Convener).

HISTORICAL RESEARCH

I regret to say that since the war commenced there has been a definite lag in the interest in Historical Research in our Institutes. Women have said to me, "We haven't time for Historical Research now. The needs of the present are all-engrossing". It is true that the winning of the war is our first objective, but it is also true that to understand the present we must know the past. It is of primary importance that every Institute member should know the richness of our heritage, and the importance of its preservation.

Approximately 30,000 boys of the Canadian Navy, Army and Air Force have married English girls. These Canadian soldiers' wives are being taught at the Canadian Legion Club in London, England, about their future homeland. When these girls arrive in Canada, Women's Institute members will not only give them a warm welcome and do everything possible to assist them in adjusting themselves to a new mode of living, but they must be ready to augment that by being prepared to tell them of the rich historical background we possess. One of the best means of doing this is to read and study books on Canada.

History in Fiction

There is history in fiction. I would suggest the following books—"The Unknown Country" by Bruce Hutchinson, "The Yellow Briar" by Patrick Slater, "The Champlain Road" by F. D. McDowell, "The Trail of the Conestoga" by Mabel Dunham and the "Trail of the King's Men" also by Mabel Dunham. If you can lay your hand on a copy of "Canada—The Foundations of Its Future" by Stephen Leacock (a private and limited edition) you will find it a most fascinating story of the Dominion,—a Canada full of romance and interest.

Rationing is a very much discussed question with us all these days. It may be news to some of us to learn that food control is not new in this country. According to the records of the Dominion Archivist it was first imposed in 1629 when David Kirke forced Quebec to surrender to the English, and has continued off and on down to the present time.

In order that our present ration regulations may be preserved for the benefit of posterity all information should be incorporated in the Tweedsmuir Village History Books in our Institutes. If there are any Institutes in our Province that have not as yet made a start on compiling one of these Books, now is the time for the work to be taken in hand. They should also contain full information covering all enlistments of the men and women in the armed forces from our communities, giving name, number, date of enlistment, rank, decorations awarded, with data kept up to date on all names until the end of the war. Include in your Book as many pictures as possible of all those in the service of their King and Country.

Community History

Much of the history of a community is centred around the Churches and the schools, and in most instances these two institutions have kept a faithful record of their activities. The minutes of the first School Board Meetings, and the registers of births, deaths and marriages, kept by the Churches, will not only supply us with authentic dates, but will give us much information about our pioneers, as will also the obituary notices in the old newspapers. Old newspapers are treasure trove for the Institute convener of Historical Research.

When we have gathered these records of the past, we must see that they receive good care. All material should be pasted down flat and every clipping should be dated in ink. Old letters can be covered on both sides with cellophane and taped in. This protects them from handling and leaves them easy to read.

Every day old documents, letters, newspapers and photographs are being

(Continued in next column)

NEWS FLASHES

Blue Church, Grenville S.: Followed the conference on "What's New in Nutrition" with 4 meetings on the subject. At the fifth meeting an examination was tried by all but two members. All received over 50 percent and several almost 100 percent. This was so widely talked about that the leaders demonstrated at a nearby Institute and others are now taking up this work.

A review of "Home and Country" highlights is given at the first meeting after it arrives. The result is increased interest in the paper and in Institute work elsewhere.

Junetown, Brockville: Reports "Our W. I. is less than a year old but new members are added nearly every meeting."

Lansdowne, Brockville: A group of snapshots of local boys overseas has been mounted, framed and placed on exhibition, bearing the Institute motto, "For Home and Country". Plans have been discussed for forming a Farm Radio Forum.

Echo Bay, Algoma North Shore: All families except two are members of the Institute.

Lynedock, Norfolk S.: Correspond with a New Zealand W. I. and letters are read at meetings.

Camden East, Addington: The local leader and assistant of the Girls' Homemaking Club and Garden brigade have planned activities not only for members but for members of their families and the community.

Jasper, Brockville: Has adopted the hospitalization plan and report that the local school is now in the Township School Area.

St. Marys, Perth S.: Had an interesting programme on the history of light, leading up to the modern uses of electricity, illustrated by a display of old lamps and pioneer lighting equipment.

Riverview, Middlesex N.: New war songs learned at W. I. meetings are of special interest to members.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH (Cont'd.)

destroyed in the interest of salvage or to accommodate more people in the home due to the housing shortage. The only method we have of rescuing these priceless treasures from the salvage piles and bonfires is to arouse the interest of all inhabitants of our communities in the local history; so that they will look twice at any article before discarding it.

Let us, then, give Historical Research a prominent place in our Institute agenda. It is most important that we, as individuals, be fully acquainted with the historical details of our own localities, that we may intelligently disseminate this interesting information to others; that we as Institutes develop and sustain a true and complete historical record of the stirring events through which we are now passing; that, as regards our own Institute territories, our records may be replete with all the data from which future generations may have a full knowledge of the part the Women's Institutes of the 1940's played during the war.

Make Historical Research one of your important activities for the following year, that it may be, in the true sense of the words, "Something attempted and something done". Let the Tweedsmuir Village Histories of our Institutes become real evidences of our esteem for that gracious Lady, The Lady Tweedsmuir.

(Contributed by Mrs. G. Gordon Maynard, Provincial Convener).

SECRETARIES—PLEASE NOTE

The following circulars have been sent from the Superintendent, W. I. Branch, Department of Agriculture, Toronto, to W. I. secretaries:

Application for Legislative Grant.

War Work Report Forms.

Central Fund Report—15th List.

Will any secretary who has not received these forms please advise us at once so that we may receive complete returns and correct any errors in our official mailing list.