

HOME and COUNTRY

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PROVINCIAL BOARD HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING



Front row (left to right): Mrs. A. Rundle, R.R. 3, Exeter; Miss Mary A. Clarke, Superintendent, Ontario Women's Institutes; Mrs. E. A. Duke, Port Carling (Hon. President); Mrs. C. Holmes, R.R. 3, Belleville (President); Col. the Honourable T. L. Kennedy, Minister of Agriculture; Mrs. M. R. Watt, M.B.E. (President, Associated Country Women of the World); Mrs. W. B. Leatherdale, Coldwater (Secretary-Treasurer); Mrs. R. Butler, Port Carling; Mrs. F. Oster, Blyth.
 Second row: Mrs. R. Ross, Thornloe; Mrs. W. Manley, 227 Rupert St., Port Arthur; Mrs. Wm. Wilson, Barwick; Mrs. F. Barron, Paris; Mrs. Jos. Jardine, R.R. 2, Collingwood; Mrs. J. T. McNiven, Ancaster; Mrs. F. E. Birdsall, R.R. 1, Birdsall (Convener, Agriculture and Canadian Industries); Mrs. T. E. Dawson, R.R. 2, Sault Ste. Marie; Mrs. C. Skipper, R.R. 1, Tilbury; Mrs. A. E. McNaughton, Lancaster.
 Back row: Mrs. J. H. Findlay, Annprior; Mrs. R. Mortley, R.R. 1, Durham; Mrs. J. R. White, Ripley; Mrs. N. J. White, Brooklyn; Mrs. H. Wicks, Cobourg; Mrs. H. Summers, R.R. 1, Fonthill (Convener, Finance Committee); Mrs. L. Challand, R.R. 5, Simcoe (Convener, War Work); Mrs. W. Keyes, Wolfe Island; Mrs. W. P. Merry, Hornby; Mrs. J. Reid, R.R. 1, Islington.

Welcome — a very sincere welcome including all that each letter stands for—warmth, eagerness, love, comradeship, opportunity, members and “everything else I could say or would say” was the greeting of Mrs. Clarence Holmes, Provincial President, to the Board of Directors of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario assembled at the Royal York Hotel, Toronto, November 16th and 17th for the annual meeting.

Directors from the twenty subdivisions answered the roll call; also Mrs. Ernest A. Duke and Miss Mary A. Clarke, the honorary presidents; three conveners of standing committees, Mrs. L. W. Challand, War Work; Mrs. G. Maynard, Historical Research; Mrs. F. E. Birdsall, Agriculture and Canadian Industries; and Mrs. Hugh Summers, convener of the special Finance Committee.

Greetings and Courtesies.

A letter from Lady Tweedsmuir, Honorary Life Member, was read, followed by the message of Honourable J. G. Gardiner, Dominion Minister of Agriculture, especially prepared for the members of the Women's Institutes at the time of the F.W.I.C. Biennial Meeting held in Toronto, in June.

A coffee table had been selected as a gift for Miss W. Brodie on her retirement from the Department staff. Miss Brodie conveyed her appreciation of the tribute and sent good wishes.

Sympathy was expressed in the passing of Mrs. James Gordon, Beaverton, a former Board Director and Provincial convener and a letter of condolence was sent to Mr. Gordon.

President's Address.

Mrs. Holmes presided at all sessions. Her address reviewed her many and varied activities of the past year. She appreciated the opportunity for direct contacts with the members afforded by district annual meetings and the thirteen area conventions. In reviewing the conventions the provincial directors were reminded of certain obligations which, by virtue of their office, they should be alert to

assume. The members look to them to speak to questions relative to the provincial Board.

As chairman of a sub-committee of the Ontario Agricultural Inquiry Commission on the extension of rural youth organizations and on rural education, Mrs. Holmes reported as the Institutes' representative on the Commission. The president expressed the honour she felt in this appointment and assured the members that suggestions were welcome at all times.

In closing her address the president emphasized the necessity for an educational Women's Institute programme to prepare ourselves for the post-war world.

Mrs. Watt Tells of A.C.W.W.

Mrs. Alfred Watt, M.B.E., reported on the present activities of the Associated Country Women of the World. She reviewed the draft memoranda on Reconstruction Planning as prepared by the A.C.W.W. and was pleased that the F.W.I.O. had accepted Parts I on Food and II on Housing and Planning. The other two cover Health and Education. Copies of the A.C.W.W. Draft Memorandum III—Health were distributed and Mrs. J. Reid was called upon to present it at Easter.

She stated that the A.C.W.W. has associate societies in most European countries and that the organization only waits the moment to get in contact with them. She pointed out that, even from subjugated countries, we get a little news occasionally in *The Countrywoman*. Mrs. Watt requested that suggestions and ideas be sent into the London office.

Mrs. Watt made a plea for the million member plan whereby everyone who subscribes a penny has her name listed on the million member roll, stating that this had contributed to keep the society together. She felt that, if we support the A.C.W.W., there is hope we may be great factors in rehabilitation after the war.

Institute members and particularly the board directors were urged to subscribe to *The Countrywoman*, the

A.C.W.W. monthly publication to keep themselves informed re International news and activities.

Women Plan for Future.

Miss Clarke gave a report of the meeting of International Women Presidents in North America, which she had attended in New York City in October upon the invitation of Mrs. Alfred Watt, M.B.E., President of the Associated Country Women of the World. Exchange of views on reconstruction and post-war planning was the main feature on the agenda. Mrs. Watt presented the memoranda on reconstruction which had been prepared by the A.C.W.W. These draft memoranda were very well received and Miss Clarke reported that the two basic principles which the A.C.W.W. believe to be held in common by all members were ceded to be fundamental. These are:

“1. That no peaceful future can exist for the world in general unless national and international law is based on the idea of Spiritual Power; and

“2. That no one generation can own the earth. Each is but a trustee for the generations to follow.”

Miss Clarke also covered the New York Times Meeting to which representative leaders of international and national women's organizations in North America had been invited. Speakers described the objectives of their organizations and outlined their reconstruction objectives and plans.

All agreed that: Women must rise at once to meet the challenge of the times if we are to have lasting peace; There is immediate need for both thoughtful study and planned action; Well qualified women should sit on committees and commissions for planning the post-war world; The spiritual aspect of the new world must be considered fundamental; There is need for definite, specific planning by all organized women, and a declaration of general principles is not enough.

(Continued on page 3, col. 1)

REPORT OF WAR WORK

Following is a summary of reports of war work received from 960 Institutes for the period May 1, 1943 to October 31, 1943. Institutes reporting are to be congratulated for the fine record of work done.

But what of the work of the 334 Institutes (about 25%) not included? We are certain that everyone of them is carrying on excellent work but we should like to have it recorded.

Number of Institutes reporting—960
 Percentage of Institutes reporting _____ 74.2%
 Money raised _____ \$85,899.33

Expenditures

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|---|-------------|
| Gifts to local enlisted men and women | \$26,758.01 |
| Wool and sewing supplies | 8,693.30 |
| Central Fund, F.W.I.O. | 1,572.48 |
| Red Cross | 4,401.50 |
| Ditty Bags | 3,186.15 |
| Navy League | 1,853.28 |
| Salvation Army | 2,015.75 |
| British War Victims' Funds | 703.45 |
| Chinese, Russian, Greek and Netherlands Funds | 2,470.41 |
| British Minesweepers' Assoc | 362.79 |
| Milk for Britain | 281.41 |
| War Savings Certificates and Bonds | 5,175.54 |
| Jam and honey for Britain | 7,359.29 |
| Sugar Fund | 2,146.39 |
| Bales of Clothing | 775.20 |
| Blood donor clinics | 107.75 |
| Cigarette funds | 182.45 |
| Other expenditures | 846.27 |

Work Done.

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| Knitting | articles 23,443 |
| Sewing | articles 43,712 |
| Hours of work for Red Cross or patriotic societies | 2,711 |

W.I. War Savings.

The Federated Women's Institutes of Canada war work convener has asked us again to distribute and fill W.I. War Savings Certificate folders and to keep a record of them. 172 were reported filed in the last six months. Can we do better? Additional folders may be obtained from the Women's Institute Branch.

JAM FOR BRITAIN

All jam made in 1943 has now been shipped to Britain and letters of thanks are beginning to arrive in Canada. It will soon be time to plan for the 1944 season and the Spring *Home and Country* will have full details.

For the success of this enterprise in 1943 thanks is again due to every member who contributed money, time, energy, executive work, fruit or assistance of any kind.

To Mrs. T. B. Barrett, Port Dover, who was the originator of the project, all W.I.'s owe a debt of gratitude for having given us this opportunity for service. She may well be proud of an enterprise whose worth has been so widely recognized that it has spread, not only across Ontario, but throughout Canada.

And to the Red Cross Society we extend our appreciation for working in co-operation with us to make this undertaking possible. Their contribution of tins, packing cases and transportation arrangements and the participation of their national, provincial and local officers and members is indispensable for success.

We also would express sincere thanks to those factories which have been so willing and so generous in supplying jam of first quality at low cost for this enterprise, even when they must have been hard pressed for labour and time.