

HOME AND COUNTRY

Published Quarterly by
The Federated Women's Institutes
of Ontario
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:
1943-1944

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

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

Vice-Presidents:
Mrs. N. J. White, Brooklin.
Mrs. F. Oster, Blyth.
Mrs. W. Manley, 227 Rupert St., Port Arthur.

Directors on the Executive:
Mrs. J. H. Findlay, Arnprior.
Mrs. J. Reid, R.R. 1, Islington.
Mrs. R. Mortley, R.R. 1, Durham.
Mrs. C. Skipper, R.R. 1, Tilbury.
Mrs. Wm. Wilson, Barwick.

Additional Directors:
Mrs. A. E. McNaughton, Lancaster.
Mrs. W. Keyes, Wolfe Island.
Mrs. H. Wicks, Cobourg.
Mrs. W. P. Merry, Hornby.
Mrs. J. R. White, Ripley.
Mrs. Jos. Jardine, R.R. 2, Collingwood.
Mrs. J. T. McNiven, Ancaster.
Mrs. F. Barron, Box 343, Paris.
Mrs. A. Rundle, R.R. 3, Exeter.
Mrs. R. Butler, Port Carling.
Mrs. R. Ross, Thornloe.
Mrs. T. E. Dawson, R.R. 2, Sault Ste. Marie.

Secretary-Treasurer:
Mrs. W. B. Leatherdale, Coldwater.

Correspondence should be addressed to
"HOME and COUNTRY"
Women's Institute Branch
Department of Agriculture
Parliament Buildings, Toronto
This paper is distributed through the secretaries
of Women's Institutes to Women's
Institute Members.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

DISTRICT ANNUAL PLANS.

It is not too early to plan for District Annual meetings, and doubtless executive officers, committee conveners and hostess Institutes are already "hard at it." From time to time we receive suggestions for these meetings which we are asked to pass on. Here are a few of them for your consideration:

To the Presiding Officer:

Start on time.
Keep the meeting moving briskly.
Try to make the last person in the last row hear.
Have all reports presented from the front of the hall.

To the Secretary:

Present concise minutes.
Have treasurer's report audited in advance.
Have ballots ready, and containers for collecting these.
Arrange a table and chairs at the front for press reporters.
Have a copy of the handbook, the co-operative programme and all district by-laws for reference.

To the Committee:

Plan to allow plenty of time for consideration of Institute business, the co-operative programme and election of officers.

Have programmes printed or mimeographed for all in attendance.

Plan for a welcoming and a registration committee.

Arrange for a blackboard.
Set aside a section for voting delegates and if possible give them a distinguishing tag.

Plan a simple lunch.
Secure a pianist and song leader so that the programme may be interspersed with music.

To the Institutes:

Arrange for a full attendance of delegates and as many visitors as possible.

Study the co-operative programme. Have delegates prepared to discuss it, and advise delegates how to vote but do not tie their hands too tightly.

Have resolutions carefully worded, written legibly or typed, and signed by the president and secretary of the

(Continued on page 2, col. 4.)

CONVENTIONS OF LASTING INFLUENCE

By the time this goes to press conventions will seem long past and all members will have read reports of them in local papers and in the farm press. But it would be a sad commentary on these conventions if the programmes were so superficial that their value was only temporary. Hence, even at this late date, we should like to bring to you a few highlights of the conventions which show current trends in Institute work.

Attendance at conventions was good; indeed the Ottawa area established a new record. This seems to indicate that members are alert to the need for an interchange of thought and for co-operative action.

The Ottawa convention was honoured by the presence of H.R.H. Princess Alice at luncheon. Her Royal Highness' message of inspiration directed the thoughts of the members to post-war planning, especially for the youth who will be returning after the war to our own neighbourhoods. The Hon. Geo. Drew, Premier of Ontario, was guest speaker at Toronto. He, too, paid tribute to the importance of organized groups of women in a democratic nation.

That Institute members are internationally minded was shown at many conventions. At Barrie, Kingston and Toronto, Mrs. Alfred Watt, M.B.E., again made members see themselves as part of a powerful international rural women's organization whose influence in the world may be very great if all members support it loyally. At Hamilton Mrs. Lynn Franklin took the members shopping in China for a red dress. As a result they learned of Chinese customs and character in a very interesting way. China was to the fore this year, as Toronto had a very thoughtful address by Mr. Fung Kat Shau, Chinese consul. At both meetings the talks were followed by suitable music, making a very enjoyable session. This idea of continuity in programme could be used more frequently to strengthen programmes.

Reports of war work revealed fine work done. Knitting, sewing, raising funds, providing jam for Britain, raising money for tons of seeds for English gardens and innumerable other activities indicate that Institute members have had a busy year. One Institute alone in the Ottawa area contributed 130 quilts, and all are working quietly and steadily for our sailors, soldiers and airmen (men and women) and for the relief of civilian suffering in war-torn lands. At Guelph, the convener should be complimented on her comparison of this year's report with that of 1942, which emphasized the reasons for changes observed.

The London area featured health this year, having as guest speaker the Hon. R. P. Vivian, M.D., who outlined the Ontario Government's plans for public health service and medical care. Dr. H. J. Hodgins of the Dental Branch, Ontario Department of Health, explained the procedure for securing rural school dental service. The Englehart convention also built

its programme around national health and the convener of social welfare at Burk's Falls reported fine work done in the area, especially in the promotion of hospital care.

Agriculture was featured prominently at most conventions. At Toronto the Hon. T. L. Kennedy spoke on rural life and agricultural representatives from Brant, Temiskaming, and Muskoka contributed to their respective conventions. Tribute was paid to the fine production records of farm families despite labour shortage. The W.I. members themselves expressed interest in many phases of agriculture varying from starting control to improved drainage and prices.

In the field of Home Economics emphasis this past year has been placed on conservation. At the same time there is an ever-growing realization that it is the responsibility of homemakers to continue to build and maintain a high standard of family life and that this will be of increasing importance in the post-war world. Related to happy home life was Dr. E. G. Reaman's address on psychology at the Guelph convention.

That we have thinking women in the Institutes was shown by a goodly number of the committee reports, resolutions and discussions. The half-hour discussion on Institute problems led by the board director at Belleville might well be followed elsewhere. At Guelph an interesting feature was the discussion on "How to take back a good report". For this, the convention was divided into three groups led by the superintendent, the provincial president and a board director respectively. Mrs. E. A. Duke, past president, led the thinking of the Burk's Falls area on the topic of how W.I.'s may meet the challenge of the times. Englehart may be congratulated on the majority of its committee reports.

At Barrie Mayor MacLaren stated that the W. I. should be "a body of representative public opinion, making that opinion known to those who can deal with it". That they do this is exemplified by the resolutions printed elsewhere in this paper.

Girls' sessions seem to be better every year. Here are the prospective W.I. members of tomorrow, and now is the time to make them feel a part of the Institute. W.I. members may well be proud of the accomplishments of our young people.

Music was enjoyed at all conventions. Two of the most interesting and entertaining musical numbers were the Glee Club at Englehart under the leadership of Rev. Hatt, and the Clarkson-Lorne Park W.I. choir at Toronto under the leadership of Mrs. C. Wasson. Community singing at Belleville was very exhilarating and Belleville is again to be commended for a one-act play, put on this year by the Quinte W.I. A new feature on the Kingston programme was a Quiz: Who's Who in Canada, which offered an excellent suggestion for a regular Institute meeting.

SEEDS FOR BRITAIN—GIFT TO CANADIANS

The seeds are again on their way to England. At the time of writing 1,000 assortments in packages of 50 have already been shipped and within a few days 4,000 additional assortments will be on their way. A new and generous use of the produce of these seeds has just been drawn to our attention in a memo from the Yorkshire Federation of W.I.'s which reads as follows:

"At the Produce Guild Rally which was held on the 15th October, 1943, we had a Gift Stall for the Canadian Army Units in the neighbourhood as a thank-offering for the Canadian Seeds. Amongst them were donations of tomatoes, cabbages, butter beans and leeks, all grown from the seeds sent from Canada.

At the end of the meeting an officer from the nearest unit came with a truck and took away a large consignment of vegetables, jam, pickles, chutneys, some bunches of grapes and

even some home-made cakes, eggs, butter, packets of cigarettes and matches."

That was a lovely thought and our Canadian soldiers would be very appreciative of the gift, as we are.

Miss Elizabeth Hess, Agricultural Secretary, N.F.W.I., England, writes:

"We are most grateful to your Federation for again undertaking to send vegetable seeds for the use of our members in 1944.

The collections which we received last year were excellent and I do not think that you can improve on them. The same applies to the packing, for which we are particularly grateful as it has solved all our difficulties of transport.

I am afraid that this letter will not reach you before Christmas, but I hope you get it before the new year. With my very best wishes for peace in 1944."

1944 CALLING FARM DAUGHTERS

Already 1944 is calling farm daughters to line up on the Home Front Production Line. Every year since 1939 the Ontario farm daughters, at home and at school, have responded magnificently to this call.

From early morning until late at night they have carried on all kinds of farm jobs—jobs requiring hard work and perseverance. It has meant aching muscles, being exceedingly tired at the end of the day, and missing that picnic, trip to town or visit to a friend's. Their satisfaction has been in knowing that producing food is a vital wartime job and that their help, which as farm girls they were specially qualified to give, meant FOOD. Many identified themselves with urban and city girls in the campaign for production by registering through the Women's Institute Branch with The Farm Girls' Brigade of the Farm Service Force. Certificates of Merit were issued to these girls in recognition of their services. Again, this year, farm daughters working on the home farm may register by making application to the Home Economics Coach, or to Miss Florence P. Eadie, Women's Institute Branch, Department of Agriculture.

Gardeners Needed.
Every farm home needs a garden to assure an adequate supply of vegetables for family meals. Every garden needs a gardener. Here is a job for the farm daughter—planning, planting and caring for the home vegetable garden in 1944.

The Women's Institute Branch in co-operation with the Agricultural Representative Branch, gives special assistance in growing a good garden, and in making the best use of products, to gardeners who join County or District Girls' Garden Brigades.

Register Now for 1944.

There will be First Year Garden Brigades for new members as well as Second and Third Year Brigades for members of previous Clubs.

Who?—Farm daughters, 12-26 years inclusive, willing to work and wishing to serve on the Home Food Production Front as family gardener.

How?—Apply to County or District Agricultural Representative or Home Economics Coach.

When?—Register immediately. Membership will be limited, with early applicants receiving first consideration.

What?—Gardeners will,—Purchase 20 varieties of vegetable seeds and some flowers.

Plan, plant and care for a garden according to recommended practices.

Prepare vegetables for family meals, can tomatoes and store vegetables for winter use.

Attend three or four garden meetings and keep garden records.

Exhibit at Achievement Day.

Keep Gardens Growing.

Former gardeners and new gardeners should line up now to keep gardens growing in 1944. Commendation and thanks are due 1943 gardeners for their splendid production records. With increased vegetable production goals established recently in Ottawa, it is hoped that eligible former gardeners will re-enlist and many new gardeners will enrol.

(Continued from p. 2, col. 1)
Institute. It is advisable that these be sent to other Institutes a month before the District annual if possible, that delegates may be ready to vote.

To the Delegates:

Bring with you a handbook, a copy of the co-operative programme, a note book and pencil. Attend every session.

Be prepared to speak for your Institute.

To Conveners:

Compile brief but informative reports. Keep to the time limit.

Make your report a summary of reports received and include suggestions for future work.

It is not necessary to include reports handed in the day of the meeting.