

HOME AND COUNTRY

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

EDITORIAL COMMENT

"EVERLASTING TEAMWORK"

When you read this you will be starting your fall season of Institute work, and we should like to pass on a word of encouragement and appreciation to all officers, conveners and members, with good wishes for a very active season.

At one district annual meeting last Spring it was a signal for spontaneous applause when an Institute representative said, "We are very proud of the spirit of co-operation which our Institute members have shown this past year. In fact, when there is a job to be done, it is quite common to have members volunteer to do it".

We need hardly say that the reports of that Institute showed excellent work accomplished, for that is the spirit which can move mountains. Our wish for your Institute is that this spirit may permeate it.

Hearing the testimony of this representative we thought that it paid tribute to the fine leadership of the officers and conveners of that Institute. Through their careful planning and initiative they must have established goals for which their members were willing to work to achieve; and they must have worked in close harmony with their members to secure such results.

It paid tribute, also, to every member of the Institute. Officers and conveners alone, however efficient they may be, can not carry on Institute work successfully. As Kipling once said, they must have "The everlasting teamwork of every blooming soul". Much of the strength of the Institutes has lain in the high value which they have always placed on the individual.

Through teamwork Institutes have successfully carried on through times of depression and prosperity, of war and of peace for 47 years. They can continue if they will but keep in mind a very fine motto which was published in the *Scottish Home and Country*, July 1944,—the winning motto of the Hopkins Crossroad Institute competition: "Ha'e faith and ye'll win through for ilka blade of grass keeps its ain drop o' dew".

DISTRICT ANNUALS REPORT WORK DONE

The district annual meetings for 1944 were again an inspiration to those who attended. The attendance, 8,411 women, was good—a sign of enthusiastic interest in Institute work, especially because of the large percentage of Institutes represented. To those districts which reported an increase in membership or the organization of new Institutes we extend congratulations.

Generally war work was uppermost in the minds of all, but other phases of community and home life were not neglected. At North York the Rev. H. Cotton reminded members of the admonition of H.M. Queen Elizabeth in her radio message to women of the Empire,—that one of their first duties is "to keep guard over our sanity and our souls". This our homemaking women and active Institutes are doing, as their reports showed.

The district annuals provide an opportunity for receiving reports. Again and again we heard conveners plead for more complete, definite reports. Every Institute can help.

Secure Good Reports

Those districts which had complete live reports were asked for suggestions as to how this was accomplished. Here are a few of them. In some, the district director, as the liaison officer between the Institute and the district, does all she can to see that reports are in on time. She sees that each Institute convener has the name and address of the corresponding district convener, and, if necessary, reminds her of her report. In other districts the Institute conveners, with the Institute secretary and president, meet before the Institute annual meeting to check through the minute book, thus making sure that all activities are reported and that there is no repetition. These reports are then brought to the Institute annual meeting, and as soon as they are accepted, a copy is sent on to the district convener. This gives her time to compile them in a concise, interesting manner.

Then there is the perennial question, "What is a good report?" It has two purposes: It is a record of activities of the past year; and it gives suggestions for future activities. One general weakness in some districts was the lack of discussion following reports and business. Good discussion is a sign of alert, active minds. Lack of discussion shows a certain apathy which will not strengthen your work.

Resolutions Are Important

Again, as in 1943, there were many district meetings with no resolutions and again we asked, "What does this indicate?" Does it mean that the members are so satisfied with the status quo that there is nothing about which they consider they should express their opinions? Carefully considered resolutions are one way of letting those in authority know what you would like to have done.

The war work of the Institutes is reported elsewhere in this issue, so will not be dealt with here. Citizenship received much attention this past year. Thought was given both to present-day problems and post-war possibilities. In social welfare, health and community activities were emphasized. Renfrew County, for example, took definite action on health services when a committee was established to interview the county council in the interests of a county health service.

HOME ECONOMICS AT KEMPTVILLE

Eastern Ontario Women's Institutes will be pleased to know that courses in Home Economics for girls will be resumed at the Kemptville Agricultural School on October 16th of this year. Practical training in homemaking, including a study of food, nutrition and cookery, clothing, home management and family life with health education, English, horticulture and citizenship will be offered.

These courses, planned especially for rural girls, provide opportunities for education which is both practical

In Historical Research there was apparent a growing appreciation that this is to be a research into local histories. There were more Tweedsmuir Histories reported and a few on exhibition.

The interest in Agriculture was ever-present. Many districts support their county federations of agriculture and junior farmers. Everywhere one was conscious of the contribution of the farm women to wartime production.

The support of Junior Homemaking Clubs was very encouraging. In Northumberland West the girls had fine work on display and a brief clever skit was presented. In Elgin West a glowing report of a successful garden brigade was given by the President. Those districts which actively support the Junior girls were enthusiastic in their appreciation of the value of this work to rural living.

Co-operative Programme

Home Economics was never neglected. Emphasis was placed on nutrition and conservation. The Department appreciated the response to the Co-operative Programme in Home Economics for 1944-45. District services requested were as follows: Care of clothing, 14 districts; Wise buying, 2 districts; Food and nutrition, 14 districts; Household accounting, 7 districts; Health education, 20 districts; Administrative leadership (rallies), 38 districts. Since the district annuals Institutes have requested the following Short Courses: Clothing, 42; Food and Nutrition, 20; Crafts, 21; Housing, 21; Health, 6.

Publicity conveners are becoming more active. One W. I. reported that the publicity convener took charge of all special telephoning and announcements between meetings. Thus she helped a busy secretary.

Suggestions for 1945

1. Open on Time—Districts which failed to do this found that their programme lagged all day. Plan to start on time, and, if necessary, have a time-keeper for reports.

2. Do not waste valuable time in the morning or early afternoon on entertainment. This is the best time for business. Many of the well-planned meetings finished committee reports and had the co-operative programme decided in the morning. If Institute business is to be dealt with thoroughly there is little time for guest speakers.

3. Have an active reception committee, to meet guests, to answer questions and to arrange for registration. Registration should start early and be complete. Past officers or vice-presidents with local members are suitable choices.

4. Have a distinguishing badge for voting delegates and reserved seats.

5. Have ushers to direct delegates, visitors and members.

6. Have those who are to participate in the programme at each session sit on the platform or in the front rows. This will prevent waste of time and confusion.

7. Have programmes printed or mimeographed. If this is impossible have the programme displayed on a blackboard.

8. Plan for discussion. Encourage participation.

9. Look to the future.

SUB EXECUTIVE MEETING F.W.I.C.

Reported by Mrs. Clarence Holmes

The Sub-Executive meeting of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada was held July 3 to 6 at Macdonald College, Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Quebec. The members present were Mrs. Cameron Dow, President; Mrs. Clarence Holmes, 2nd Vice-President; Mrs. G. F. W. Kuhring, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. Fred Gates, Recording Secretary, and Mrs. T. L. Townsend, Treasurer.

Recommendations were made as follows:

1. That Mrs. Marion Angus, B.C., be appointed to complete Mrs. Price's term as Publicity Convener and editor of *Federated News*.

2. That the Handicraft Films, sent by the Women's Institutes of England to the F.W.I.C., be made available to all provinces, beginning in the east, with a time limit of two months per province.

3. That the F.W.I.C. request that copies of the A.C.W.W. memoranda on Post-War Planning be mimeographed and made available through the Provincial and Federal Departments of Agriculture.

4. That Mrs. Watt's forthcoming book, dealing with the work of the A.C.W.W., be given support by the provinces. It was suggested that each W.I. secure a copy.

5. That the F.W.I.C. co-operate with the Advisory Committee of the Veteran's Land Act.

6. That a resolution be sent to the Government favouring greater release of radio batteries and tubes.

7. That a pledge of sympathy be sent to the National Institute for the Blind with a request for further information re financial aid.

8. That we concur with the Quebec W.I. resolution in favour of a national standard for education throughout Canada; and that this be brought to the attention of all the provinces.

9. That, in support of Ontario's resolution on Citizenship, we urge every woman to vote and suggest that she study the issue carefully.

10. That, in co-operation with the Red Cross, the W.I.'s sponsor blood donor clinics in centres where they are not already functioning.

11. That we consider the preparation of a film of Women's Institute activities in Canada for the fiftieth anniversary in 1947. The cost would be approximately ten thousand dollars. Each province will be asked to ascertain the possibility of financial assistance from the provincial Department of Agriculture.

Reports of Representatives to Meetings

Mrs. Holmes reported a meeting in Toronto in May to consider ways and means of assisting war brides from other countries. Following this a recommendation was made that three hundred dollars be donated, as the share of the F.W.I.C. in the publication of a book *Kith and Kin* to assist these brides.

An account of the meeting on Epidemics and Venereal Diseases, attended by Mrs. Jamieson, was read. It was advised that we give full co-operation to the authorities in the national drive for the elimination of venereal diseases.

The report of the annual meeting of the Canadian Women's Committee on International Relations was given by Mrs. Kuhring. Mrs. Holmes also attended. A recommendation was presented that we no longer continue affiliation with the C.W.C.I.R. but that steps be taken to open up our channel of communication through the constituent bodies of the A.C.W.W.

The report of Miss Eadie, who attended the annual meeting of the Girl Guides in Canada as F.W.I.C. representative, was read.

For the next biennial it was requested that each province prepare a brief to be submitted by their directors. These brief are to be completed by June 30, 1945, and copies sent to the other provinces.