

## F.W.I.O. BOARD MEETS

In April, 1944, the Provincial Board, F.W.I.O., met at the Royal York Hotel with all directors present. Mrs. F. E. Birdsall, Mrs. Gordon Maynard, Mrs. T. D. Cowan and Mrs. L. W. Challand, provincial conveners were in attendance to bring reports. At the District Annual Meetings the board directors have presented reports of this meeting, but since all W.I. members could not attend the district annuals, the following highlights, submitted by the secretary, will bear repetition.

## President's Address

Mrs. Clarence Holmes congratulated the Institutes for their fine work. She asked the Board Directors to inspire the Institutes to continue to work not only to keep the organization at full strength, but to increase membership and organize new Institutes, that the F.W.I.O. may be prepared to shoulder their responsibilities in the post-war period both in their home communities and as provincial and national units.

As a member of the Ontario Agricultural Inquiry Commission Mrs. Holmes reported on their inquiries. She touched especially on rural education, youth organizations and health. Suggestions from members were invited and Institutes were urged to study these problems seriously.

Mrs. Holmes explained methods for setting up county agricultural committees, provision for which had been made at the last session of the Ontario Legislature. Two women will be appointed to each county committee and the Women's Institutes as a rural women's organization will be entitled to representation when councils are organized in their counties.

## Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Mrs. W. B. Leatherdale reported that, in response to the circular asking for names of life members, she had received a list of 399 life members. Mount Royal in Wentworth South reported that Mrs. Emily Andrews was the first member to receive an official life member's pin, July 27, 1932, as up to that time certificates only had been issued. Since October 1943, 65 applications for life membership certificates have been received and orders for 49 life member pins. With reference to the latter the manufacturers ask for patience and understanding in connection with delays. The extreme shortage of labour, lack of experienced workers and the fact that military orders have first consideration are responsible.

It was encouraging that 24 districts had sent federation fees to the provincial secretary by April 1st. It was recommended by the Finance Committee that to facilitate financing the Provincial Federation federation fees be sent to the district secretary not later than February, and that they be forwarded by the district secretary immediately following their receipt.

Three of the 13 convention areas did not apply for the federation grant in 1943. These were Barrie, London and the Lake Head.

## Central Fund F.W.I.O.

Mrs. H. Wicks, secretary-treasurer of the Central Fund, presented the report for January to March, 1944. The Central Fund Committee recommended the following expenditures which were approved by the Board.

Navy League of Canada, Ontario Division	\$ 500.00
Canadian Red Cross Society for Prisoners of War Parcels	500.00
Queen's Canadian Fund for British War Victims	300.00
Kinsmen's Milk for Britain Fund	250.00
Save the Children Fund (food and clothing for European children)	250.00
Mrs. Winston Churchill's Fund for British Women's Services	250.00

Evening Telegram British War Victims' Fund ..... 200.00  
Total ..... \$2,250.00

(Note: These expenditures are not listed in the Central Fund report on page 1.)

It was agreed that the request of the Kinsmen's Club for Institutes to sponsor a Hallowe'en Shell-out for Milk for Britain be drawn to the attention of all Institutes. Their suggestion is that instead of children asking for shell-outs for themselves on Hallowe'en the money be sent to the Milk for Britain Fund.

## Superintendent's Report

Miss Mary A. Clarke, explaining the Co-operative Programme 1944-45, expressed appreciation for the support given this programme last year and looked forward to continued opportunities to work with Institutes in the fields of home economics and administrative leadership. She presented the financial statements of the Sugar Fund 1943, the Wool Fund and the Putnam Memorial Fund. Through the latter, shipments of clothing and cash donations amounting to \$51.85, the gifts of East York District, had been sent to relieve fire sufferers in Northern Ontario.

In discussion it was recommended that appeals for relief received from individuals in distant communities should be referred to the Department to be checked. This will prevent exploitation of Institutes.

Miss Clarke told of the recent organization of the Provincial Junior Farmers, including boys' and girls' clubs and Junior Institutes. She assured the members that if they have opportunity to encourage or help Junior groups these merit their support.

## F. W. I. C.

Mrs. Holmes reported on the activities of the F.W.I.C. The response of Ontario to the appeal for the Emergency Fund amounted to \$763.69, a very fine response. It was agreed to recommend that, although the F.W.I.C. emergency fund appeal was for this year only, each February should be set aside for the Institutes to give study to the national organization.

Satisfaction was expressed in the appointment of Mrs. Cameron Dow, National President, to act as an adviser to the Consumer Branch W.P.T.B., Ottawa, to represent rural women.

Sympathy was expressed in the loss of Mrs. Bailey Price, editor of the *Federated News*, who is widely known in Institute circles.

## Standing Committees

Conveners present submitted outlines of plans of work for their respective committees and had an interesting discussion on the new ruling that in future conveners' outlines be presented at the November Board meeting.

For Historical Research Mrs. Maynard emphasized the importance of Tweedsmuir Histories, hoping that every W.I. would have one for the 50th anniversary (1947). Mrs. Birdsall speaking at F.W.I.O. representative to the Federation of Agriculture asked that district Institutes support their county federations and have representation on them.

## Other Business

A Song Sheet Committee, composed of Mrs. G. Wilmer Keyes, Mrs. N. J. White, Mrs. R. Mortley, Mrs. C. Holmes and Mrs. W. B. Leatherdale, was appointed to plan for a new Women's Institute Song Sheet. The Sub-Committee, members of which also function as the Finance Committee, was appointed to deal with publishing. Any suggestions from Institute members will be welcomed for consideration.

While it was agreed not to print a new Hand Book until after the war it was recommended that members and

## NEWS FLASHES

MICKSBURG, Renfrew N.: Had a poster contest on the growth of the Women's Institute, 1897 to 1944.

RIVERVIEW, Middlesex N.: Plan to collect snapshots of each boy and girl overseas and a souvenir from each for Tweedsmuir Village History.

MAJESTIC, Huron E.: Convener of Agriculture planned a tour of local creamery where they had a demonstration in making cottage cheese. Almost every member has tried it in her home since.

WARWICK, Lambton E.: Visitors are always welcomed at our meetings and we estimate that 50% of present members have become sufficiently interested to join through first being asked as visitors.

SOUTH YARMOUTH, Elgin E.: The Institutes together with County Council sponsor an oratorical contest for public school children.

VICTORIA, Lennox: Due to pressure from our Institute a waiting room for service men was opened in Napanee where they could stay while waiting for buses.

ROCKWOOD, Wellington S.: One of our community activities during summer is holding picnics for soldiers' wives and families in our community.

DECEW FALLS, Welland: Have arranged our programmes so that one meeting is given to music. We feel this subject needs more stress by the Women's Institutes.

WATFORD, Lambton E.: Have had much better attendance since we have been giving more papers. Papers brought forward thought and action on the part of members.

FREDERICKHOUSE, Cochrane N.: Two of our members are on the school board and try to give all help possible to the teacher.

DUNNVILLE, Haldimand: Have subscribed to the *Composer*, a Canadian magazine sponsoring only Canadian music, the highlights to be given each month.

HORNBY, Halton: Are beginning the beautification of a plot of land at corner of 7th line and base line at Hornby, by planting trees and shrubs.

LIMEHOUSE, Halton: Library planned for local school following address by visiting city teacher. Through parties have raised money and had some good books donated, school board co-operating and installing shelves for books.

WARWICK, Lambton E.: Last year our Institute established a library in the village, with one of the members setting it up in her home and offering her services as librarian. It has proved most successful.

BLYTH, Huron W.: Had a programme devoted to flowers, each of twelve members taking the history of a different variety—where they originated, propagation and cultivation. Flower contest followed.

## SEEDS FOR BRITAIN

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 2)

though we are not really short of anything (except butter—only 2 oz. of that a week per person) the meat ration is not large. We all eat far more vegetables than formerly and the health of the nation is grand. We have a very large garden here at the Beacon and grow all we can to supply some of the sailors on the ships which come into the harbour. They are very grateful; they do appreciate fresh garden stuff.

"I run a market stall in the village once a week as well so that many of the village women who have only small gardens can buy fruit and vegetables at the controlled price. This saves them standing in queues, and they too are glad to get the best stuff, fresh. So you see the seeds you so kindly sent will be well used.

"Now we have two American soldiers billeted on us and very nice men they are and do full justice to their food!

"Thanking you again, with all good wishes to your members of the W.I." The total value of seeds contributed since the enterprise was undertaken in 1941 is \$6,752.21.

## F.W.I.O. BOARD

(Continued from Col. 2)

officers keep their Hand Book supplemented with Board Rulings passed since the Hand Book was printed in 1936. Rulings passed at Provincial Board Meetings are given publicity in the *Home and Country*.

## Luncheon Meeting

The luncheon was the social highlight of the spring Board Meeting. Guests included the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Mr. W. R. Reek, and staff members of the W.I. Branch of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Reek was the luncheon speaker. He conveyed the regrets of the Minister, Colonel the Honourable Thomas L. Kennedy who was unable to be present and extended his greetings and best wishes.

The Deputy Minister pointed out the importance of Agriculture in our national life, stating that Agriculture must become organized on no less a scale than such other great groups as Finance, Industry and Labour. He asked for the continued support of the Women's Institutes.

## U.S.A. WOMEN ASK FOR LETTER FRIENDS

A letter from the pen friend Secretary in United States has listed an interested enquirer for each of these States: Kentucky, Nebraska, Illinois, Indiana. Is anyone interested?

ENGLAND: There is still a waiting list for Canadian pen friends. May we suggest that those wishing links state their interests as well as their age group, e.g., 20 to 30, 40 to 50, etc. As the requests from England contain this information it will make the selection easier.

## RURAL EDUCATION

(Continued from Page 3, Col. 4)

IX last September. Furthermore, the records show that 80% of farm boys who have taken the vocational course are now engaged in farming. At Simcoe an important feature of the work is the supervised farm practice programme under the direction of Mr. H. B. Disbrowe, B.S.A. In these schools all pupils of Grade IX take the same course in which Home Economics for girls and Shop Work and Agriculture for boys are stressed. In Grades X, XI and XII, pupils who do not desire French and Latin take the vocational course. English, Social Studies, Mathematics and Agricultural Science are taken by vocational pupils and any who on completion of the three or four-year course desire to complete Normal School standing may do so without serious loss of time. This plan can apply only in larger schools in which there are sufficient pupils for at least two classes in each of Grades IX, X, XI and possibly XII. Introduction of courses of this kind in more of the larger schools is desirable.

Reference has been made to several schools in which a satisfactory programme of rural education is being conducted under existing regulations. At some future time it may be desirable to introduce a specialized type of school serving two or three counties. In the meantime it must be remembered that existing school buildings and equipment represent a large capital investment which cannot be heedlessly scrapped. These schools already serve the needs of most communities. Adoption of one of the plans outlined above in more schools is, therefore, a logical step. Unfortunately, owing to war conditions there is at present a shortage of qualified teachers and any widespread expansion must be deferred until conditions are normal.