

HOME and COUNTRY

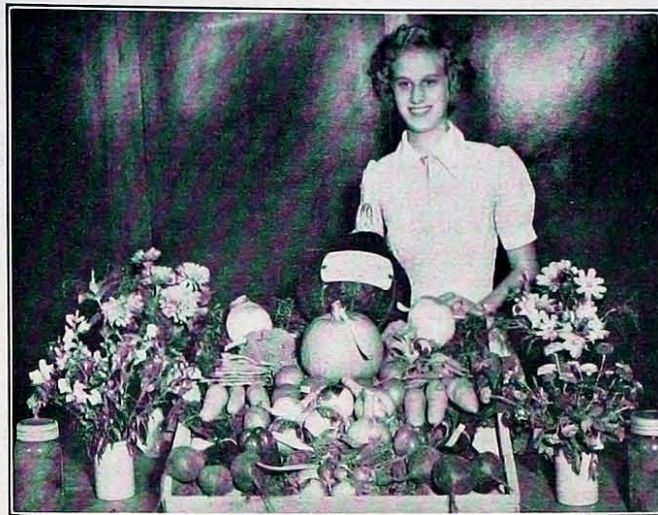
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GARDEN BRIGADES PRODUCE FOR VICTORY

That our Garden Brigade members are anxious to serve to increase production and to make the best possible use of our food supplies is exemplified by the above pictures.

On the left Marjorie Bailey, Dorothy Fawcett (leader) and Norma Fawcett of Newport pose with some of the products of their brigade, exhibited at Brantford.

In the centre, Florence Smith, Fonthill, R.R.1, is seen with her own vegetable and flower exhibit at the Welland County Achievement Day. Her story is below.

On the right, Marjorie Johnson, Balaclava (Grey) gathers in her harvest.

FOR VICTORY

(Extracts from Florence Smith's Record Book)

Everyone will agree with me when I say this has been a wonderful year for growing vegetable gardens. For this reason I think that we first year gardeners chose an excellent summer to begin our Agricultural careers.

I planted my seeds and in due time saw long strips of green vegetation in their place. Then I noticed that some seedlings grew faster than others. They were my enemies—weeds. How I hoed and weeded, and then they were no more. The weeds were my "Hitlers"—they were overcome with persistent attacks. Ah, yes! I had, and have, some "Tojos". The cabbage butterflies, the little black beetles and corn borers—they are my Tojos.

My garden was planted for horse cultivation but I decided I had enough time to hoe by hand so I sowed seeds between each row thus increasing my garden to twice its original size.

Just as I was growing tired of caring for my victory plot, the radishes and young beets were ready for the table. No one, except maybe the other girls of the different brigades, could have been more proud of her achievements than I was. My garden has never failed me. When that never-answered-for-long question arises "What shall we have for supper?" I could always go to the garden and find enough food for a supper fit for a king.

My flowers are at their best now (the end of August). The zinnias are beautiful as are the other flowers.

I canned my tomatoes by the cold pack method. Other vegetables I plan to store for winter are carrots and beets in the sand, squash and pumpkin in a bin and onions in onion bags (loosely woven) after they have dried a few days in the sun.

I loved my work in the Garden Brigade. I have only one regret, I wish I had been a member last year so I would have been a Second Year Brigader this year!

READINESS FOR WORK—Sprit of Conventions

Conventions are occupying the thoughts of Institute women again "Post-war Adjustment", "As the Home Is So is the Nation", "Character Building" were common themes and topics for discussion. A spirit of readiness for new plans of work permeated all meetings.

The attendance has been very good, showing an encouraging interest in Institute work and a sincere belief in its value to rural living. At Iron Bridge a bus load of 53 women, delegates from the Sault and along the line were welcomed. The bus had been chartered with the permission of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board and the women turned out with enthusiasm. At Fort Frances a very cordial welcome awaited all members. Every train, day or night, was met and delegates and visitors taken to their destination. Reports have been presented in better form and were more complete than in 1943, with more time permitted for discussion.

At least four conventions used the discussion method for presentation of important topics. At Hamilton "Character Building" was dealt with by a panel of three, the Rev. Mr. Morgan, representing the church, Mr. G. Price the school and Mrs. J. D. Taylor the home. Two thoughts stood out—That the youth of today are fine young people; and that, not one agency alone, but all three have a share in character building. At Belleville the chairman and vice-chairman led discussion on the convention theme "As the home is, so is the nation". They were well supported by the members who took part in the discussion from the floor,—an excellent way to secure audience participation. At South River Mrs. C. Holmes, President, F.W.I.O. and the federated representatives presented a round table conference on Local Institute Programmes under the headings,—planning, preparation, presentation and results. At Ottawa Miss M. A. Clarke, Provincial Superintendent, conducted a conference on Duties of Conveners of Standing Committees. The discussion technique has

proven its value and is spreading into many conventions

Not for a moment are our Institutes slackening in war work, as reports show. Thousands of dollars raised, hundreds of articles knit, sewn or quilted and a surprising variety of other activities appeared in every convener's report. The provision of Jam for Britain was always mentioned and one of the activities nearest to the heart of practically every Institute was the provision of boxes for local enlisted men and women. Blood donors are increasing everywhere and the Central Fund will receive enthusiastic support. All conveners expressed the hope that this work will soon be over, but realize that it will not end even with the cessation of hostilities.

As always Agriculture was uppermost in the minds of Institute members. At Timmins, and throughout the North there was a plea for the development and use of early-maturing crops. Everywhere the use of new scientific methods and the relation of agriculture to other industries were stressed. The need for a fair share of the national income for farmers was emphasized at Ottawa. Frequently conveners asked their committees not to neglect other Canadian industries. At Fort Frances a film strip on a near-by industry, the Steep Rock Iron Mine at Atikokan, was shown.

Good Citizenship was uppermost in all minds. Study and practice of Citizenship was the theme of the address of Mrs. Clarence Holmes this year. She said, "The study of citizenship is like a cactus. It has so many points, and the points are sharp, troublesome and often difficult to handle. But, as the cactus blossoms into a rare and beautiful flower, so the intelligent citizen is the flower which results from this study. Citizenship is a personal responsibility. It needs clear thinking, hard work, some sacrifice".

At Timmins particular interest was shown in naturalization, emphasizing the need for a more impressive ceremony when the foreign-born become

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GARRISON LANE SCHOOL

Miss Eleanor Hamilton has returned to Canada and, at our request, has submitted the following story of her work in England:

I have been asked to write an article for the "Home & Country" about my two years' stay in England. I was very happy to do so and I hope I may give you a small idea of our work there.

A little over two years ago a group of us—known as the Canadian Children's Service left Canada to go to England to help them in their great time of need. There were three groups of women, first, the Nursery School group who went to Birmingham where, under the direction of Dr. W. E. Blatz, they set up the Garrison Lane Nursery Training School; secondly, the group of teachers who were stationed in London to replace English teachers who had gone into service; and thirdly, the social worker group who went to evacuation centres and helped arrange billets, etc., for the children from bombed areas.

We all left Canada in August 1942—and after a thrilling trip and a week's leave in London we settled down to our various jobs.

Although I cannot speak in detail for the social worker or the teacher, I can say that they all have enjoyed their work both with the English children and with the adults. Most of them are still in England—some plan to come back to Canada next year. The teachers of London have all had a thrilling spring and summer due to these new bombs. Nearly all of them were taken on by the large evacuation plan. Their jobs were to take groups of two hundred or more mothers and children to safe areas, and there to see that they were safely delivered to the local authorities. With this completed they boarded the crowded trains again to return to London to take another group out the next day. On several of these trips they were near Birmingham and they managed to get to see us. Thus we heard all their experiences as well as having a little Canadian Children's Service Reunion.

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