

HOME AND COUNTRY

Published Quarterly by
The Federated Women's Institutes
of Ontario
The Women's Institute Branch
Department of Agriculture
Ontario

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"HOME AND COUNTRY"
Women's Institute Branch
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This paper is distributed through the secretaries of Women's Institutes to Women's Institute Members.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

"There is a tide in the affairs of men,
Which, taken at the flood, leads on to
fortune;

Omitted, all the voyage of their life
Is bound in shallows and in miseries.
On such a full sea are we now afloat,
And we must take the current when
it serves,
Or lose our ventures."

SHAKESPEARE, JULIUS CAESAR.

Just such a tide is rushing in upon
Canadians today. Wave upon wave
the tide of social change sweeps on
"And we must take the current when
it serves".

It will take strong swimmers to
breast these waves, — swimmers
strong enough to control and direct
their own courses so that they may
reach their goal before they become
exhausted. A good swimmer must be
able to judge the force and direction
of every wave to use it to advantage.
She will swim with those waves which
will help her on her way, adding her
strength to their force to achieve her
objective. Some of the waves will
sweep the swimmer far from her
course. These she must be able to
judge, to ride and conquer, pitting
her strength and wit against their
strength. And all the while she must
watch for rocks and reefs, for hazards
to her progress. Only thus can she
reach her goal.

So with the waves of social change,
the forerunners of which are with us
now. Our goal is better living. Some
of these proposed changes will help
us to achieve this end. Let us add our
strength to these and press on with
them.

On the other hand let us use our
judgment to ride and conquer such
tides as would sweep us on to destruc-
tion and false standards.

There is no time for apathy. Our
course is too beset with rocks and
reefs to let waves carry us where
they will. We need the physical, intel-
lectual and spiritual strength of every
woman to carry us on through the
waves; we need clear vision and right
judgment to guide us; and we need
the perseverance to stick to the end.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH—A NATIONAL DUTY

It is with the most intense gratification that I report a considerable increase in the interest taken by the Institutes of our Province in "Historical Research". From the numbers of enquiries I am receiving continually it is evident that the subject as a whole, and the "Tweedsmuir Village History Books" in particular, are appealing more and more to our women as a study. As Cicero puts it, "To be unacquainted with events which took place before you were born is always to be a child". What was true in Cicero's day from his contemplation of a comparatively few eras of history, is immeasurably more true today from our retrospect of centuries of past history, and our view of the present history in the making.

In order to disseminate this information which I have given on previous occasions to our Institutes by many letters, personal visits, and through our Institute paper "Home & Country", I would like to again make the following suggestions:

THE BOOK—A sturdy loose-leaf, stiff-covered book makes a very suitable holder for this information of ancient and modern local history.

THE COVER—The front cover should be inscribed with the title, "Tweedsmuir Village History", the Institute Crest in the centre if possible, and the name of Women's Institute with the year of compilation, at the bottom.

THE FOREWORD—On the inside of the front cover should be inserted pictures of the late Lord Tweedsmuir and the Lady Tweedsmuir. On the first page should be inserted the following "Foreword" which the Lady Tweedsmuir has authorized as a Preface to our Histories.

Foreword

"I am so glad to hear that the Women's Institutes are going to compile Village History Books. Events move very fast now—a-days, houses are pulled down, new roads are made, and the aspect of the country-side changes completely, sometimes in a short time.

It is a most useful and satisfying task for Women's Institute members to see that nothing valuable is lost or forgotten, and women should be on the alert always to guard the traditions of their homes and to see that water-coloured sketches and prints, poems and prose legends, should find their way into these books. The oldest people in the village will tell fascinating stories of what they remember, which the younger members can write down, thus making a bridge between them and events which happened before they were born. After all, it is the history of humanity which is continually interesting to us, and your Village Histories will be the basis of accurate facts, much valued by the historian of the future. I am proud to think that you have called them "The Tweedsmuir Village Histories".

SUSAN TWEEDSMUIR."

TWEEDSMUIR HISTORY SOURCES

The following list of possible sources has been recommended by various conveners. It is important that all information should be accurate.

County record offices,—for records of land transfers, wills, etc.

Township offices,—for council minutes.

Museums and libraries of local historical societies.

Court Houses.

Files of local newspapers.

Collections in the possession of individuals,—diaries, etc.

Church records, registers, minutes, and published reports.

Records of different societies.

School records.

Local Commercial and Industrial sources.

Cemeteries.

Printed primary and secondary sources,—such as directories, atlases, local histories.

Photographs.

THE CONTENTS—The book should then be divided into two parts, one for historical records and the other for current events; or if you prefer you may procure two separate books. In the historical section should be inserted the histories of early families, sketches of former citizens including the original owners of village properties, churches, schools, old letters and diaries (old diaries are of absorbing interest on account of their reflection of the manners of the time, and the insight they give into the character of the writer) the first industries, old mills, cheese factories, etc., the early music, choral societies, bands and choirs. Many thrilling stories of adventure and courage have been handed down from preceding generations and are worthy of preservation. Before recording these in the Tweedsmuir Village History Books make sure they are authentic. These Tweedsmuir Village Histories are increasingly used for the education of our school children and for the information of new teachers coming into our communities.

CURRENT EVENTS—In the Current Events section make a record of the war activities in your community. Keep a list of the enlistments of men and women in the armed forces, giving name, rank, number, date of enlistment, decorations awarded with data. Keep up-to-date on all names until the end of the war. If a photograph or snapshot accompanies an article it is that much more interesting. Above all things keep your histories localized.

HAND CRAFTS AND HISTORY—I feel that I should refer to our Institute Motto "For Home and Country" when advocating the study of one branch of Historical Research,—"Hand-crafts". They teach us so much of the pursuits and culture of our pioneers, and at the same time afford us an opportunity of keeping these pursuits and this culture still alive. A nation's culture is reflected, among other ways, by the hand-crafts of its people. These crafts reveal the originality and character of the individuals who go to make up the nation. Our aim should be to preserve and foster our native arts and encourage native design and the use of Canadian materials.

Historical Research is a study which, as a cultural pursuit, is well worthy of our consideration. It is, however, more than that. It is a national duty for us to perform that we may prepare ourselves for the tasks which lie ahead in education of others, particularly the new-comers who will shortly become citizens of our land, awakening in them the love of "Home & Country", our history, our culture, and our pursuits. In the words of Moses which have come down to us through the ages, I leave with you this thought—"Remember the old days, think upon other generations".

Submitted by MRS. G. G. MAYNARD,
Provincial Convener, Hist. Research.

ONTARIO INDUSTRIES

Ontario the Banner Province! How aptly it was named, for few, if any, Provinces can count their treasures in the same measure as Ontario. This is not provincialism; it is an appreciation of facts.

Grapes and peaches, tobacco and small fruits in the South; apples, tomatoes, grain and legumes up as far as, and including, the Great Clay Belt; forests everywhere and the finest rivers in the world to produce hydro.—All these conditions make ideal livestock country and so we are indeed blessed.

The Future for Agriculture

From an Agricultural standpoint what are we going to do about it? During the war years in spite of a tragic shortage of help, farmers have been keeping up production, but in many cases to the detriment of the farms. Weeds are on the increase, roofs are in need of repair and fences have been repaired beyond repetition. It has become a test of endurance. The numerous auction sales are, in many cases, held because the strain has been too great.

All this will be a source of more post-war work and industry, but it will not make more attractive homes for our young people to come home to. We should make an organized appeal to our Government for hydro on every farm, good and better roads, attractive schools as well as extended and better markets to attract people to Rural life.

Forest Protection

Forestry is an industry closely connected with Agriculture. From the farm wood lot and sugar bush to the great forests which grow on Crown lands it is an industry that should be fostered and nourished for the protection of our watersheds, haven for wild life, for the maintenance of suitable rainfall and as a source of a great industry. The Crown Forests belong to the people of Ontario, and no Government should be allowed, by the people, to squander it by sales to monopolies, rather they should encourage smaller industries to spring up and give employment to thousands of Ontario citizens.

Money spent on fire protection and supervision of Forests only means an insurance on our own Provincial property and protection for our game and fish which attract many thousands of tourists every year. Mines run out, oil wells go dry, but with sane methods used agricultural lands and forests will produce indefinitely and so should be nourished and protected as the font of life for a Province such as Ontario.

Local Post-war Plans

Post-war planning cannot be left entirely to the Government. All municipalities and other groups can do much in this regard. Local industries pertaining to agriculture or local products should be supported and a trade built up peculiar to the different localities. This will bring prosperity and work and this spells contentment.

"In Unity is Strength". The united voice of rural women must advise the authorities that the contented people are those with comforts, health and prosperity. Only these things will ensure a return of our boys and girls from the Army and Industries.

Contributed by MRS. F. E. BIRDSALL,
Provincial Convener of Agriculture
and Canadian Industries.

TO INSTITUTE SECRETARIES

The following forms have been sent you. If you have not received these please advise the Superintendent at once, so that we may check our mailing list.

1. Application for Grant—To be returned by December 15.

2. War Work Report Forms—To be returned at once, if not already in.

Watch for Report of Meetings Forms in December.