

## JUNIOR FARMERS CONFER

Conferences of the Ontario Junior Farmers' Association were held recently at the Kemptville Agricultural School and the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph. Some 250 young men and women, representing rural youth and farm homes in every county in the Province, listened to speeches and made speeches, took part in a farm radio forum, asked questions and discussed topics of special interest to rural youth. They played games, danced and sang together.

They looked back a quarter of a century to the first Junior Farmer Clubs and Junior Institutes and followed with pride the story of the growth, development and achievement of these organizations. They took stock of their Provincial Junior Farmers' Association (Jr. Farmers, Jr. Institutes, Farm Girls' Clubs) with its membership of over 3,000 and they looked ahead and made plans for the future.

Throughout the conference questions were repeatedly raised regarding the return of service men and women to rural communities and how they might assist these young people in their re-adjustment to family and community life.

Some time was spent considering various aspects of rural education. It was evident that these young people wish an opportunity to continue their own education through their clubs, short courses, correspondence courses and various adult education channels. They want rural schools staffed, housed, equipped and managed so that their sons and daughters will have equal educational opportunities with city children.

On community building they heard some of the advantages and possibilities of decentralization of industry, of processing and packing products where they are produced, and the importance of maintaining the fertility of the soil. They were urged to know their communities, find out what they have and what they need.

From an address "Frame Work of the Future" the members caught a glimpse of things to come. They realized the need for global thinking and planning and learned of some of the machinery already set up for this purpose,—of U.N.R.R.A. and the conferences at Hot Springs, Bretton Wood and Dumbarton Oaks. They were told that Canada's prosperity depends on a good neighbour policy and world well-being, that Canada must be prepared to import as well as export on a balanced basis, and that Canada is in a strategic position in aviation and cannot escape its responsibilities.

They listened to an address on "Preparation for Leadership" and, in discussion groups considered the ten commandments of leadership given them. At Guelph in a separate session the girls spent some time on "What Makes for a Good Organization" and on "Today's Challenge to Rural Girls."

Colonel the Honourable George A. Drew, Premier of Ontario, was guest speaker at the banquet at Guelph. He commended the young people for their accomplishments and gave them a vision of some of their opportunities and responsibilities.

Continually delegates asked themselves searching questions regarding their local organization,—Have we a goal? What is it? Is our organization doing the job it should do? If not, why? What do we want to achieve this year through our organization?

Where no organizations existed delegates were asking,—Is there a place in our community for a club? How do we go about starting one?

Finally conference days were over, even though drifted highways gave many one more conference night. These rural young folk left for their homes and communities more aware of the part they have to play in building and maintaining the highest and best in rural living.

(Contributed by Miss Florence P. Eadie, W.I. Branch.)

## RESOLUTIONS INDICATE INTERESTS OF MEMBERS

Resolutions were received by the F.W.I.O. from 10 of the 13 areas.

Space does not permit the printing of resolutions in their entirety, and where more than one area submitted resolutions of a similar nature I will group these as one in this report which I, as convener of resolutions for the Province of Ontario, beg to submit. All resolutions outlined were passed by the Board.

From Lions Head, Clarksburg, St. Ann's, Mosa and Charlton W.I.'s came resolutions asking the abolishing of women's beverage rooms in Ontario. This was sent to the Ontario Temperance Federation, with the request that it appear in their publication "The Temperance Advocate", to the Attorney-General of Ontario, to the Prime Minister of Ontario and to the Liquor Control Board.

From Derry West, Barnhart and City View and Merivale W.I.'s came resolutions expressing great concern about the increase of venereal diseases. They are aware of the public menace of these diseases and ask that legislation be enacted to provide free blood tests for all residents of Canada; that certificates be issued showing freedom from these diseases; that both parties applying for a marriage license be required to produce a certificate from a Government-recognized laboratory testifying that they are free from, or in a non-infectious stage of, venereal diseases; and that pre-natal blood tests be recognized routine procedure in every case where a physician is in attendance. Further there was a resolution commending the efforts of the Provincial Minister of Health and his department in their publicity campaign, and offering the assistance of our organization, in the efforts to eradicate or lessen the effects of these diseases.

Cobden Institute protested the inferior quality of ready-made clothing, stating that the prices charged are too high for articles of such quality. They suggest that prices be determined by the thread count, the quantity of starch and the quality of dye used in the manufacture of such goods. They directed their request to the Federal Government to enact legislation demanding that such goods, whether sold by the yard or as a manufactured garment, conform to specified standards. This resolution went to Mr. Donald Gordon, to Miss Byrne Hope Saunders, and to Miss Harriet Parsons all of the W.P.T.B.

Navan W.I. drew to the attention of the Department of Agriculture the need for an Agricultural Representative in Russell County. This resolution was forwarded to the Minister of Agriculture for Ontario and to Mr. C. D. Graham, Director, Agricultural Representatives Branch.

From the Kingston Area came the protest against the use of red leno on baskets of peaches. This resolution was sent to the Hon. J. G. Gardiner, to the Hon. T. L. Kennedy, Mr. Donald Gordon, W.P.T.B., Mr. F. Perkin and Mr. G. Wilson, Ontario Department of Agriculture, and Mr. E. Neff, Niagara Fruit Growers' Association.

Wolfe Island and Williamsford W.I.'s were concerned regarding necessary financial assistance for those who are incapable of earning a living through accident, disease or from birth. The resolution asked for legislation whereby some financial assistance may be provided for afflicted persons, too young to be eligible for the Old Age Pension. This resolution was sent to the Minister of Welfare.

Also from Wolfe Island,—now that the Agricultural School at Kemptville, Ontario, is to again be used for an Agricultural School, they asked that a Home Economics course suitable for rural girls be included in the curriculum; that credits be given to lead to higher training, and that Miss Mary Clarke, Superintendent, and Mrs. Holmes, President of Ontario W.I. be consulted in regard to the course in Home Economics.

In the interest of Health, Wolfe Island W.I. asked that legislation be enacted whereby persons engaged in dispensing food to the public should be tested for tuberculosis.

Yarker-Colebrook W.I. has not found the rationing of maple syrup and honey to be in the best interests of producer and consumer. They asked that the regulations governing this be modified or abolished. This has been sent to Mr. Donald Gordon, W.P.T.B.

Now that the need for electric power conservation is not so urgent, the Belleville area asked the Federal Government to rescind the statute governing daylight saving, and that we revert to standard time at once.

Since the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, is to be transferred again to student activities, this will include Macdonald Institute. Derry West W.I. asked that the Provincial Government be petitioned to take necessary and immediate steps to make a course in Household Science, which will meet the demands of present day rural life, available to girls, with a definite ideal toward the improvement of rural home and community life; they also ask that an additional course of four years should be offered for the training of teachers and professional dietitians, with a degree to be conferred. This resolution was sent to the Hon. T. L. Kennedy and Dr. G. I. Christie, President O.A.C.

The Central Ontario Convention supported the Heliconian Club who asked that support be given a resolution which they are sponsoring in the interests of actors, musicians, artists, and writers who are at present serving in the armed forces. They ask that in the proposed rehabilitation and employment of the armed services at the conclusion of the war, the Government of Canada give the same consideration to those following these professions, as is given to citizens of other professions. They also request that a commission of suitable persons be appointed at an early date to consider ways and means of carrying these plans to a satisfactory conclusion. This was sent to the Dominion Government.

Minesing W.I. strongly recommended that the Government buy good farms for the returning service men, in order that they may be able to earn a decent living and enjoy the prosperity to which they are entitled.

The North Wentworth Women's Institutes, realizing the importance of manual training and domestic science for rural schools, asked that in the post-war program these subjects be given consideration; also, that a recommendation be forwarded to the Ontario Educational Association asking that these subjects be stressed in the Normal School curriculum as essentials rather than specials.

Again in the interest of education, Greensville W.I. requested that instruction in sex education be approved by the Department of Education of the Province of Ontario, and be given in the Public and High Schools of the Province by teachers so trained in our Normal School and College of Education, or in such manner as the Department may deem advisable.

From a moral and health standpoint, North Wentworth District asked that strict supervision of health and moral conditions in trailer and automobile-home camps be compulsory; that this matter be brought to the attention of local, Provincial and Dominion authorities, and that responsible parties be named for the work of supervision in each camp.

Lynnville W.I. were in favor of an act being passed which, when approved by a county council, would prohibit the cutting of trees under eight inches in diameter at the butt, without consent of a county forester appointed by the county council for this purpose.

From St. Ann's W.I.—that regardless of religious beliefs, there should not be special privileges granted in

this time of national and international crisis. The resolution asked that a system be devised whereby the special privileges extended (exemption from military service on religious grounds) be nullified or the right of franchise withdrawn.

The Hamilton Area asked that consideration should be given to the contributing factors in juvenile delinquency, such as Saturday movies which are not carefully censored, salacious literature circulated freely from lending libraries, and radio programmes with unethical stories, profane language and raucous voices. This resolution asks that we as W.I. members do all in our power to raise the standards by creating public opinion which will demand better movies, better books, and better radio programmes.

The Welland County W.I. are convinced that the present naturalization Act does not adequately meet the needs of the nation and requests that the following changes be considered:

1. That the applicant for naturalization shall be required to read, write and speak the English or French language in a manner adequate to fit the needs of the day.

2. That applicants for naturalization shall be required to have at least an elementary knowledge of the history of Canada and of the British Commonwealth of Nations in order that he may have an appreciation of British traditions and of his responsibilities in maintaining these.

3. That the necessary text books be made available in order that they may have such information obtainable in concise form.

4. That regularly appointed times be set for hearing of applications after the preliminary representations have been made by the applicant to the Secretary of State for Naturalization.

5. That regular appointed and specific times be set each year for the granting of citizenship.

6. That the granting of citizenship shall be done with ceremony and dignity as will befit the privileges and rights which citizenship in this Dominion bestow upon its citizens.

7. That the youth of Canada who enjoy the birthright of citizenship in the British Commonwealth of Nations shall, upon attainment of majority be included in the ceremony of granting citizenship each year.

Mosa W.I. asked the strict enforcement of the regulation governing the dimming of lights on motor vehicles when meeting traffic.

From Hyde Park W.I. came a protest against any change in the weight of the 24-oz. loaf of bread.

Fort Francis W.I. saw the need of accommodation for the aged in the Rainy River District. They petition the Government to include an Old Folks' Home in their post-war plans.

Atikokan W.I. wish the Government would have the railways give special rates on salvage from outlying districts where there is no other means of transportation.

From the Rainy River District came a request to the Department of Education, asking that they recommend strongly to rural school boards that radios be placed in all schools as a necessary part of equipment.

A resolution was received from the University Women's Club of North Bay who, realizing the large proportion of women engaged in educational work and the still larger number of women vitally concerned with all aspects of education as mothers and citizens in this province, asked that women be named to the proposed Commission of Education for the Province of Ontario. This resolution was supported and copies will be sent to the Hon. George Drew and Dr. J. G. Althouse.

These resolutions with their wide and varied scope show breadth of vision, consideration of others, and a desire to improve living conditions.

Submitted by Emma M. Duke, Convener of Resolutions.