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COORDINATION OF EFFORT BRINGS RESULTS

Report of the 14th Biennial Meeting of the F.W.I.C. Board

Whether it was the unhurried, old-world atmosphere of the spacious hotel, sweet with the perfume of callilies and roses from the gardens, gay with rhododendron, azalea and may,—or whether it was the friendly welcome accorded by the executive to each Board member as we arrived at the Victoria dock that Sunday afternoon,—or whether our vision was cleared by the inspiring service that Sunday evening in the little old church nearby, which the F.W.I.C. Board attended in a body—whatever the cause, on our arrival in Victoria we felt a spirit of unity, of friendliness and trust that forgot provinces and distance and made of us a Federation in spirit as well as in letter. This was the dream of our early leaders and this understanding prevailed throughout the Board meeting.

Never can we feel that "East is East and West is West and never the twain shall meet," is true of Canada as long as this feeling exists among her rural women. If such meetings could be held often, Canada's people would lose the provincial outlook in the greater national good.

When busy farm women can raise half a million dollars and make half a million garments for war comforts in two years we know they have lopped off the non-essentials. This same aptitude for clarifying, simplifying and co-ordinating effort was evident in all deliberations of the meeting. At 9.30 a.m. June 4th in the Empress Hotel, Victoria, B.C. the President, Mrs. Cameron Dow, opened the Fourteenth Biennial meeting of the Board of Directors of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada. Twenty-five members attended each session, representing the nine provinces. These included voting members, conveners and two councillors—Miss H. MacDougall, N.S. Department of Agriculture, and Mrs. V. McLachlan, B.C. Department of Agriculture. They were fortunate in having Mrs. A. Watt, M.B.E., President A.C.W.W. and Patroness of the F.W.I.C., with her wisdom and experience to call upon. A happy feature of Monday afternoon was a surprise birthday party for Mrs. Watt.

Another delightful feature was when Mrs. Kuhring, donning the white gloves sent for the purpose, turned the leaves of the souvenir book

sent by the N.F.W.I. of England and Wales with Miss Christmas as a token of their appreciation for our sympathy and gifts during the war years. The book is a work of art, made of handmade paper, bound, written and illustrated by hand. Manitoba will cellophane the leaves to prepare the book for exhibition.

By unanimous vote of the Board members all meetings of the full Board were open for any Women's Institute member to audit but not to engage in discussion. The provincial briefs formed the basis for the business transacted and the following recommendations were accepted for consideration by the provincial federations:

Recommendations Adopted

1. That properly qualified women be appointed to post-war councils.
2. That the offices of recording secretary and treasurer be combined.
3. That organizations with similar aims and objectives be accepted as affiliates upon payment of an annual fee of \$25.
4. That the sub-executive constitute a policy committee.
5. That the policy committee be empowered to set time and place of Biennials.
6. That, as formerly, executive and sub-executive meetings be closed, but that any member of a Women's Institute may attend F.W.I.C. Board meetings as an observer.
7. That the Federated News remain in its present form.
8. That a minimum uniform allocation to F.W.I.C. be five cents per member.
9. That, because of imperative need, the Emergency Fund, authorized by the 1943 Biennial be continued throughout the coming Biennial term.
10. That an intensive campaign for increased membership be organized.
11. That the "million member" plan of the A.C.W.W. be endorsed by the Provinces.
12. That provincial federations forward plans promptly to the policy committee for rehabilitation of returned service personnel.
13. That, in future, the first vice-president be appointed with a view to proceeding to the presidency.
14. That radio be utilized as an avenue of publicity.
15. That we investigate further the possibility of having an Institute film prepared.
16. That, as far as possible, younger women be encouraged by inclusion on all executives.
17. That future Biennial sessions deal entirely with the business of the Federation.
18. That fares of Directors from the provinces be pooled.
19. That arrangements be made for the safe-keeping of all F.W.I.C. documents.

After much discussion it was agreed that the F.W.I.C. standing committees should be reduced to two: Home Economics and Citizenship. These two committees will act as

INTRODUCING MISS ANNA LEWIS

All Institute women will look forward to welcoming and working with Miss Anna P. Lewis, new Superintendent of the Women's Institute Branch, and, when you have met her you will look forward with even greater anticipation to your next meeting, for you will find that Miss Lewis brings to her position not only good professional training and experience but a sincere interest in the well-being of the Women's Institutes and a friendly personality.

The daughter of a Women's Institute member, Miss Lewis was born and brought up on a farm near Newmarket. As a girl she was active in Junior Institute work, took part in Judging Competitions and attended the Girls' Conference at the Ontario Agricultural College. It was these activities as a Junior Institute member which influenced her to study home economics at the University of Toronto. Following graduation Miss Lewis' experiences have been varied. She has served as dietitian at the Weston Sanitarium and the Cornwall General Hospital and since 1938 she has had a fine record as a teacher in Home Economics at the Arthur Voaden Vocational School in St. Thomas. This record was based not only on her teaching ability but upon her fine sense of community responsibility. While there she conducted many night classes and special meetings for voluntary women's groups and several of the nearby Women's Institutes can and do pay tribute to her interest and services.

Miss Lewis is tall with dark brown hair and eyes. She has many interests including a very special interest in old china and glass.

Mrs. Hugh Summers, F.W.I.O. President, who knows Miss Lewis, adds her word of welcome when she



says, "After regretfully bidding adieu to Miss Clarke we turn to give good welcome to the incoming Superintendent of the Women's Institute Branch, Miss Anna Lewis. Those of us who have been privileged to meet Miss Lewis feel that the Department of Agriculture has made a wise choice. She has the many attributes which will ensure her success in this exacting position. Her rural background and long time interest in Women's Institutes will stand her in good stead as she takes on leadership in our organization. It is with pleasure that I commend to your close co-operation and to your high regard an interested and interesting person—Miss Anna Lewis. (sgd.) Mildred Summers, President, F.W.I.O."

clearing houses for both Provincial and international data. Each province may choose its own plan of action and the national conveners will still, upon request, send help to the provinces as formerly but will not draft a plan of action. Mrs. T. L. Townsend, Birtle, Manitoba, was appointed convener of Home Economics, and Mrs. A. S. Dennis, 2875 12th Ave., W., Vancouver, B.C., was appointed convener of Citizenship. The secretary is to receive, record and report war services.

The executive officers elected were: President, Mrs. Cameron Dow, Port Daniel West, P.Q.; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. Allison MacMillan, Fairview, P.E.I., and Mrs. E. E. Morton, Vegreville, Alta.; Recording Secretary and Treasurer, Mrs. Clarence Holmes, Belleville, Ont. R.R. 3.

Mrs. Marian Angus, Vancouver, B.C., was re-appointed Publicity Director. The offices of recording secretary and treasurer for the coming Biennial term were combined for the first time and Ontario will be proud to have Mrs. Holmes serve in this capacity.

Miss Helen MacDougall, who attended the first F.W.I.C. Biennial in 1919 presented the results of a questionnaire which had been sent to all Superintendents. She emphasized that if we desire unity instead of confusion of thought the F.W.I.C. must be

a clearing house of ideas that originate in the members themselves. She stated that learning is the chief motive of Institute work and that one of the chief objectives is to stimulate and train leaders.

British Columbia proved a most gracious host to the F.W.I.C.—The Hon. K. C. MacDonald, Minister of Agriculture, gave the official welcome for the province and His Worship the Mayor for the City of Victoria. Hospitality included tea as guests of the Navy League, tea at the Royal Canadian Naval College, a dinner given by the Department of Agriculture and motion pictures. The Quebec Department of Agriculture sent an exhibit of Handicraft and B.C. Institutes displayed their crafts at the dinner.

At various times throughout the meeting speakers repeated the slogan of the Chinese farmer which, after all, sums up in simple terms our desire for our own as well as the world's children:

"Food to eat,
Clothes to wear,
Houses to live in,
Books to read."

If life is to be full, it is for us as Women's Institutes to see that these are provided and each the best possible of its kind.

(Contributed by Mrs. Challand, F.W.I.C. Director for Ontario.)

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE CONVENTIONS

Holding of Conventions subject to W.P.T.B. Regulations.

PLACE	DATE
Sandfield	September 18
Bar River	September 20, 21
Port Arthur and Fort William	October 4, 5
New Liskeard	October 9, 10
Callander	October 11, 12
Toronto	October 17, 19
Barrie	October 23
Ottawa	October 25, 26
Guelph	October 30, 31
Bellefleur	November 1, 2
London	November 6, 8
Hamilton	November 13, 14
Kingston	November 15, 16