

HOME and COUNTRY

Published by

The Ontario Women's Institutes at Toronto 2, Ontario

Volume 12

SPRING, 1946

Number

JUNIOR INSTITUTES EXAMINE THEIR CONSTITUTION

Something new in conferences took place in April in Toronto, when twenty young women from rural communities across Ontario met to confer on future policies with Mrs. Summers, our Provincial President, Miss Lewis, our Superintendent, some of the Home Economists who work closely with young people, and Miss Eadie, Supervisor of Junior Extension.

Most of the girls were members of Junior Institutes or Farm Girls' Clubs, both of whom form a part of the Ontario Junior Farmers' Association which came into being two years ago. One purpose of the meeting was to attempt to clarify their relations to this group as well as to the Senior Women's Institutes.

Miss Eadie reminded the conference that the Junior Institutes have a background of thirty years of activities and service working closely in most cases with the Senior Institutes. She reviewed briefly the history of Women's Institutes starting as they did at Stoney Creek almost fifty years ago and spreading until now we have organizations of country women throughout the world; and she suggested that Junior Institutes should be very proud of the mother-daughter relationship with an organization of such a wide scope. It is no small thing to be a part of the Associated Countrywomen of the World giving us as it does a fine international outlook and a means of working for happier relationships throughout the world.

Miss Lewis in welcoming the girls assured them that the Women's Institutes are interested in what they are doing and anxious to co-operate with any movement of rural young women which makes for better homemakers and better citizens. "The aim of the Women's Institute Branch", she said, "is to help you help yourselves." She stressed the need for free discussion because that is part of democracy and to-day democracy needs the best we can give it.

Mrs. Summers recalled her membership in a rural girls' club where they felt the need to learn the mechanics of homemaking so that time could be spared for companionship and pleasure within the home. The girls had her assurance that Ontario Women's Institutes would be proud to have a closer association with the young women in the Junior Farmers' Association.

Honourable T. L. Kennedy, Minister of Agriculture, took time from his busy day to extend greetings to the conference. He said he felt this was a meeting that would make history.

Mr. C. D. Graham, Director of Agricultural Representatives, Mr. A. H. Martin, Secretary of Ontario Junior Farmers' Association mainly through whose efforts the Association has functioned so successfully, and Mr. McIntyre Hood, Editor of Junior Farmer News, all added their word of greeting.

Miss Edna Moore, Provincial Director of Public Health Nursing, outlined the new health units the Department of Health is setting up. She paid high tribute to the pioneer work of Women's Institutes in the field of health services in Ontario, even attributing the formation of the Department of Health to their efforts.

Miss Moore gave the girls many practical ideas of how they can help in promoting the health program.

By dint of much discussion the meeting agreed on some pretty clear-cut objectives for a farm girls' (Continued on page 2, col. 4.)

SENIORS MEET JUNIORS AND EAST MEETS WEST



From left to right: Miss Beatrice McDonald, Stormont; Miss Anna P. Lewis, Superintendent; Miss Marjorie Brown, Grey; Mrs. Hugh Summers, Provincial President; Miss Irene Smith, Kent.

NEW INSTITUTES

DISTRICT	INSTITUTE
Brant North	Riverside Juniors
Brockville	Fairfield (reorganized)
Bruce East	West Arran
Bruce East	Elsinore
Carleton East	Ridgemont
Cochrane North	Frederick House
Dufferin	Rosemont
Dufferin	Whitfield
Dufferin	Lavender
Durham West	Maple Grove
Essex South	Cottam Juniors
Grey North	Sarawak
Grey North	South Sarawak and Keppel
Grey North	Golden Valley
Halton	Drumquin
Halton	Milton Juniors
Huron South	Grand Bend
Huron West	Blythe Juniors
Huron West	Clinton Juniors
Lanark North	Appleton
Lanark North	Ramsay
Lanark North	Rocky Ridge
Lanark North	Beckwith
Lincoln	Victory
Muskoka North	Ilfracombe
Ontario North	Brock Juniors
Ontario North	Uxbridge Juniors
Oxford North	Grace Patterson
Oxford South	Ostrander
Parry Sound	Juniors
North	Beaver
Peel	Rosehill
Perth South	Athlone
Renfrew North	Golden Lake (reorganized)
Renfrew South	Glasgow Station
Russell	Leonard
Thunder Bay	Kakabeka Falls
Victoria West	North Ops
Wellington South	Lakeside
Wentworth South	Woodburn
York North	Nobleton Juniors

NEWS FLASHES

Bluevale, Huron East: Are buying equipment for the kitchen of the community hall.

Bracebridge, Muskoka South: Gave the proceeds of a tag day to the Institute for the Blind.

Clarksburg, Grey Centre: Contributed \$100.00 to their community hall; help families who have lost their Mothers.

Diltz and Robinson Road, Haldimand: Gave three surgical trays, costing \$24.35 each, to the Dunnville Hospital.

Edenhurst, Bruce North: Are presenting bill folds and money to all returned men in that section.

Finch, Stormont: Gave \$150.00 to the "welcome home" chest for returned men.

Kentvale, St. Joseph Island: Keep the first-aid kits of two schools filled; also provide dulse for the school children.

Lochwinnoch, Renfrew South: Joins the school board in sponsoring a dental clinic for the school.

Minden, Victoria East: Are contributing to community recreation facilities by filling in the site of an old rink to make a park and helping to build a new rink.

North Horton, Renfrew South: Bought an oxygen tent for Renfrew Hospital at a cost of \$400.00.

Puslinch, Wellington South: Gave money to help install an electric water pump in the community hall; presented a war bride with quilt, blankets and bed linen.

Thornhill, York East: Have put most of the proceeds of their annual sale in a fund for a community hall.

THE WAR REPORT

In this issue we present a summary of the war reports submitted to the Women's Institute Branch on the "blue sheets" from the beginning of the war to October of last year.

Figures at their best never can tell the whole story of the tireless efforts that have gone into the knitting and sewing, the raising of money and the packing of parcels. Nor do figures tell all they should unless the work done is reported in detail and very definitely. Boxes and bales are indefinite terms and do not lend themselves to inclusion in reports unless the weight or value is estimated as pounds or dollars.

At the beginning of the war it was hard for some Institutes to see the need for reporting their work and some found it difficult to put it down in black and white. In the first period up to December 1939 only 40% of the Institutes, or two in every ten, sent in the blue sheets. In the next six-month period the number reporting rose to 47%. From that time the reports increased steadily and in 1945 some 87% of the Institutes, or nine in every ten reported.

When the proportion of Institutes reporting is considered and allowance made for reports not received, we feel safe in estimating that Ontario Women's Institutes have raised locally for war purposes a round million dollars, and made almost one and a half million knitted and sewn articles.

We hope to have a fuller summary of all the various wartime activities in the next Home and Country.

WHY STOP LEARNING?

This is the arresting title of a book on adult education. Why, indeed, should we stop learning and how, indeed, can we afford to, if we are not to be left far behind in this fast-moving world?

Women's Institutes are recognized as pioneers in adult education for rural areas so you all will be interested in learning about the Universities' Adult Education Board of Ontario which came into existence last year.

Two members of the Board are women, Miss Ethel Chapman of the Farmer's Magazine and Miss Dorothy Carlisle of Sarnia Public Library. Wing Commander Ross Winter who before the war was Director of Extension at Queen's University has been named Director of Adult Education for Ontario and Flight Lieutenant Norman C. Lindsay is in charge of Agriculture and Rural Adult Education. More about this in the next issue of Home and Country.

WE WELCOME MRS. McCULLOCH

The Provincial Board at their meeting in April chose Mrs. John McCulloch, R. R. 2, Brampton, as the new Secretary-Treasurer of the F. W. I. O. Incidentally, they feel this is an especially happy choice at this time of planning for our fiftieth anniversary, since Mrs. McCulloch's Mother-in-law is a first cousin of our own Adelaide Hoodless, and her Father-in-law was active in the early Farmers' Institutes.

FIFTY THOUSAND MEMBERS for our FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

Our present membership is 35,000
The increase must be 15,000
This is an increase of three for every seven members.

- * Where you have seven aim for ten.
- * Do you number 21? Then aim at 30.
- * Do you number 35? Then aim at 50.