

SOCIAL WELFARE

Although the war is over, the suffering and hardships of a war torn world must be alleviated. Hence in place of the former war work committee, such post-war activities are now listed under social welfare along with community welfare, health and education. It is our sincere hope that after working so faithfully at war work we shall turn just as much force and enthusiasm into home and community betterment. Through this we shall make a real contribution toward a lasting peace.

HEALTH

Science and Research has brought about many new things during these war years. Penicillin and Sulfa Drugs have come to be of quite common use by Doctors, and Research in Cancer has discovered much.

Statistics also show us that more than three times as many babies died under the age of one year in Canada during World War II than men and women in the Army, Navy and Air Force. These facts should be studied and every assistance given where possible to improve our standards of life. Other phases to assist with are the immunization of all pre-school children and the stamping out of venereal disease. Even if we, as separate Institutes, only assist in one or two of these studies we may do our bit fighting the war against disease.

EDUCATION

Our motto, "For Home and Country" will always stand out. To have better homes, we must have happy family relationships in our homes and co-operation in our schools, in the community and in our country.

There are so many ways we as Institute members, or as the Institute body, can co-operate with the school teacher and the school board. How pleasant it is when the teacher feels that the Women's Institute is ready to give a helping hand if the need arises! Maybe it is no more than serving lunch at a literary meeting, or providing transportation to a neighbouring schoolhouse to attend an oratorical contest. There are so many little things we can do, which show we are anxious to have the rising generation better educated and fitted for life. As we know, the rural people have not the access to good reading which the urban people have. Rural Libraries are well worth working for. Travelling Libraries have proved very beneficial and should be used. Maybe there is a chance we could change that 5% of rural people having libraries to 10% at least. Let us not forget the opportunities afforded by the Loan Library, Women's Institute Branch. In many parts of our Province, especially in country places, Homemaking Clubs are of great value and I think each rural Institute should sponsor them. Not only do the girls learn lessons in Etiquette, Cooking and Sewing, etc. but also many a leader has learned valuable lessons. Let us stand one hundred per cent behind our girls in these projects and behind our Home Economists. The Calf Clubs and Potato Clubs for boys and girls should not be neglected. We could sponsor these as well.

"Any nation that seeks to improve its future, must at all times safeguard the education of its little people".

COMMUNITY WELFARE ACTIVITIES

This is something which differs in different parts of the Province. What suits one community might not suit another. Still, I believe, in most parts of the Province rural people pretty well have to make their own fun. There are so many ways, which we all know so well. Two examples are the Country Dance and Fall Fairs. Both of these get-togethers hold a prominent place in community affairs. The Institute certainly has a part to play in these functions. Each member is out helping to keep the wheels turning thus making her community a better place in which to live.

To keep us from growing old too

CENTRAL WAR CHARITIES FUND F. W. I. O.

Summary from January 1st, 1943 to May 31st, 1946

Greek War Relief Fund	\$ 295.20
Chinese War Relief Fund	885.25
The Salvation Army	351.03
Netherlands War Relief Fund	4.50
Sugar & Jam Fund for Britain	1,082.56
British Minesweepers' Auxiliary	1,117.00
Garrison Lane Nursery School	28.77
Two Mobile Kitchens	6,262.90
Queen's Canadian Fund	1,459.74
Overseas Tobacco & Hamper Fund	50.00
Kinsmen's Milk Club	835.27
Evening Telegram B.W.V.F. & Christmas Cheer for British Children	691.20
Seeds for Britain & Shipping Charges	6,189.72
Navy League of Canada, Ontario Division	1,754.50
Russian War Relief Fund	1,534.78
Red Cross, Ontario Division & Prisoners of War Parcels	4,111.87
British Children's War Service for Mental Hygiene	200.00
Mrs. Winston Churchill's Fund	705.00
Prisoners of War for Books I.O.D.E. appeal	47.00
Radios to England	101.94
Save the Children Fund	1,500.00
Blind Veterans Fund	70.00
Service League for British Ships	605.00
Miss Christmas for British War Relief	200.00
Hospital for Sick Children	78.00
Canadian Friends War Fund (Quaker)	20.00
War Veterans Amputation Home, Toronto	500.00
Canadian Cancer Fund	20.00
War Veterans Hospitals	2,620.00
Labels for Garments, etc.	121.01
Panorama Camera Co. Pictures Mobile Kitchens	15.25
Bank Exchange, Stamps & Security Expenses	191.12
Bonds for Sec.-Treasurer	40.00
Also Clothing sent to "Save the Children Fund" valued at	40.00
A box of gifts to ship built at Port Arthur value	25.00
TOTAL	\$33,753.61

CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED THROUGH THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE BRANCH

Sugar Fund—January 1942—March 1946	\$15,501.41
Sick Children's Hospital Building Fund	\$10,350.00

soon, we should improve our talents. We never know what talent we have in our midst till we have given our folk an opportunity to act on the stage, speak a piece, or sing a song. A list of plays was published in the February number of the Farmer's Magazine.

There are so many, many ways we as Institutes can enter into community life. This year we must try to have a very particular event take place in our communities, namely, the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the "First Women's Institute". Each Institute will decide on the nature of this occasion but I might pass on the suggestions left with us:

- (1) Prepare a paper on how your Institute has affected the community since its inception.
- (2) Exhibit your Tweedsmuir Village History.
- (3) Prepare a history of your local Women's Institute.

No community is complete without its church so let us, no matter what our denomination stand behind our church.

"The more we get together the happier we'll be".

POST WAR ACTIVITIES

Many are the ways in which we may help and much is needed. Contributions of money, clothing, and even ration coupons are acceptable. European children may be adopted and parcels may be sent direct to Women's Institutes across the seas. (For further information write to the Women's Institute Branch). We have our own returned service men and women and many war brides to welcome.

Are we working to make our communities a happy wholesome place in which to live? Are we making our Institute meetings so interesting that every woman in the community receives help and inspiration and goes home a happier and better informed citizen? This is our challenge.

"To keep the peace we must make life worth living."

Contributed by: Mrs. R. Dodds, Convener, Social Welfare

DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETINGS

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to have worked to make the day an unqualified success.

One good piece of work reported here was the purchase of five acres of land for a park. This has already been beautified by a lovely rock garden. Everybody is interested and everybody is working.

Ontario South In this district the secretary made a real contribution through the excellence of her work. In addition to the regular reports, she gave also a comparative statement in which she told in an interesting way which Institute had the greatest increase in membership, the greatest number of papers and addresses, which took in the most money, etc. One new Institute (Ajax) was organized, an interesting fact being that its present membership of 23 was made up of women from 7 districts and 11 different Institutes.

Miss Collins Visits the East

While attending four weeks of district annual meetings in the Eastern Countries, we had a glimpse of the activities which interested the members of the Women's Institutes during the past year.

Mention can be given to only a few of their special projects, such as: Drama and Music Festivals, Oratorical Contests, Hospitalization Units, and generous gifts to hospital ward maintenance. Other benevolent projects were—Save the Children Fund, Princess Alice Fund, Hospital

for Sick Children, Salvation Army, Institute for the Blind, in addition to their regular Red Cross and War Work activities.

The Conveners of Standing Committees were too often unable to make a clear and concise compilation of district activities because the local convener had failed to report, although some excellent work was done if the convener had the information on time. This is one of the weaknesses of our organization which could easily be remedied if each local convener gave her report at the annual meeting and forwarded a copy immediately to the district convener.

Some practical suggestions for home and community beautification were suggested, with a campaign to paint and print legible names on mail-boxes as a beginning.

Anyone wishing to awaken and develop public interest and co-operation in some community enterprise could begin in a small way by organizing a study-group and having a series of meetings using every available assistance in studying every angle of the subject before trying to interest those who might be indifferent or even antagonistic.

One district had as their special guest Mrs. Strum, M.P., who spoke briefly on "Mothers and Citizens", stressing the fact that power rests in the minds and conduct of every adult voter, and that our citizenship is so vitally important in our national development that we cannot afford to stop learning.

We appreciated the capable manner in which the hostess Institute provided for our comfort and pleasure. One thoughtful provision which met with our approval was to find that water, soap, wash basins and paper towels had been brought to the hall by the entertainment committee.

In reviewing the day-by-day experiences while attending these meetings, and meeting women who represent the Canadian rural home, the thought that grips is: We are concerned with living and building, with creating with the things which make life worthwhile. The opportunities are boundless. To make the most of them we must keep ever before us that it is not the future that shapes us, but we who shape the future.

NEWS FLASHES

Radio Station CFOS (Owen Sound) launched, last November, a new series of programs featuring news from the W.I.'s of Grey County. The series was inaugurated with Miss Isabel Doyle of CFCO interviewing the district president and secretary. From that time on views of W.I. activities have been reaching our members over this station.

Chisholm, Parry Sound North: Purchased book shelves and over 200 books for the Institute Library.

Simcoe, Norfolk North: Are helping to pay for an artificial ice arena.

Vandorf, York North: Provide the community hall free for young people one night a month.

West Ops, Victoria West: Helped to buy linen for the West Ops room in Ross Memorial Hospital, Lindsay.

Sprucedale, Parry Sound South: Made its war brides members of the Women's Institute.

Capreol, Sudbury: Has placed sanitary equipment in the school.

CONVENTIONS 1947

Place	Hall	Date
Sandfield	Hall	September 10
Bar River	Hall	September 12-13
Port Arthur	Hall	September 25
Fort William	St. Paul's Church	September 25
New Liskeard	City Hall	September 26
Callander		October 1-2
Ottawa	Orange Hall -	October 3-4
Kingston	Chateau Laurier	October 9-10
Belleville	Queen's University	October 15-16
Barrie	Collegiate Institute	October 17-18
London	Oddfellows' Temple	October 23-24
Guelph	Hotel London	November 5-7
Toronto	Norfolk St. United Church	November 7-8
Toronto	Royal York Hotel	November 11-13
Hamilton	Royal Connaught Hotel	November 25-26