

HOME AND COUNTRY

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

"LOOKING AHEAD"

The privilege of writing this article is particularly opportune at this time due to the cancellation of conventions. No one regrets more than I, that conventions, the great reservoir of inspiration and enthusiasm, are not being held.

Since this is so, a greater responsibility is put upon the individual member, the Branch officer, the District officer, the Convention officer and the Provincial Board Director. For, after six years in which time and effort of Women's Institute members have been devoted to war work, real leadership is needed to once again channel our activities along educational and inspirational lines. It will be necessary to give more time and greater thought to monthly programs so that they meet the needs of your Institute.

Also there will be women in each community who have considered themselves too busy in war years to associate themselves with the Institute. Now is the time to make greater effort to interest these women in the Institute. Then too, much energy has gone into the raising of funds for war work. This may now be curtailed to some extent and the energy be devoted to true Institute activities.

Likely community projects will be coming to the fore in many places. Judge these projects carefully to be sure they are those most needed in the community, that they will do the greatest good to the greatest number and that it is possible to carry them out.

Above all let us work to build the Women's Institute into a great moving force. One of the Provincial Board Directors writing to me said:—"We belong to a wonderful organization capable of far reaching activities. Its success is very dear to my heart and I firmly believe in its program and endeavours." This is the spirit which will go far in keeping the Women's Institute the most outstanding and worth-while organization of women.

(Signed) Mildred Summers,
President, F.W.I.O.

A LETTER

Port Daniel West, P. Que.,
Dear Members of Women's
Institutes in Ontario:

Since I have not been privileged to meet many of you personally, I am deeply grateful to Miss Lewis for inviting me to talk to you through the medium of your *Home and Country* and to greet you on behalf of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada.

Some time has passed since the Allied Nations of the World thrilled as that one word VICTORY flashed over the wires and, while many hearts were sad, all rejoiced that the end had come to the dreadful carnage wrought by modern warfare. Now we begin to realize that it will demand even greater effort to hold the PEACE than it took to win the war.

During the six years of war the part played by rural women was of vital importance to the welfare of the world. There is an equally vital part for us to play in the years that lie ahead—years of reconstruction which will determine whether we have lasting peace or another war. Let us consider some of the things that we can do.

We are told repeatedly that unless the destitute peoples are provided with food and fuel and clothing for the coming winter, the first of the four freedoms for which they and we have fought—freedom from want—will not have been won and we shall have continuing war. From October first to twentieth we have had the privilege of giving used clothing to the National Clothing Collection. That they may have fuel, there will not be as much coal available for people on this side of the Atlantic so we must prepare to share it cheerfully. Indeed, those of us who burn wood may be short of fuel too, due to the labour question. Insulation helps solve the fuel problem. We might follow the example of one of our National Directors who, when no workman was to be had, with some help from her husband took up the attic floor, stowed rock-wool between the rafters and relaid the floor.

Food is of particular concern to those of us who are actually farm women for we work to produce it. With a definite shortage of farm labourers during the war years, there was a more definite increase in farm production because the women worked in dairy, field and orchard. After the needs of starving Europe and Asia are met, there will continue to be a call for more food as nutritional standards are raised the world over. Whether we live in city, town or country we may share in providing needed food by faithfully observing the rules necessary for rationing.

It was following a suggestion from Ontario that the F.W.I.C. asked to have a rural woman added to Consumer Branch of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board. As the Rural Advisor appointed to represent not only Institute members but all rural women, I wish to thank you for the splendid support you have given me when I have asked for information, and for the way in which you have upheld the rulings of the Prices Board. Please continue to do so as long as controls are necessary.

During the past biennial term we worked towards the ideal "Think Nationally, Work Nationally" but our vision still tends to be limited by provincial boundaries. The mistrust is caused largely by lack of knowledge and understanding of one another's problems. In a lesser degree, the same thing is true with our Institute work. Let us acquaint ourselves with the difficulties and triumphs of the nine Provincial Institutes and we shall strengthen our national work.

When I learned that you are working towards Handbook revision, I spent some time in studying the 1936 edition of your Handbook which I have. May I enlarge on and clarify

two statements dealing with the F.W.I.C.

The first is contained in the second and third lines on page four where it is stated that "the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada was organized as a clearing house for common problems and initiate a national programme." Our charter states that the objects of the Federation shall be: (a) To co-ordinate the various provincial units composing the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada (b) To act as a clearing house for activities of the various Federated organizations (c) To raise the standard of home-making (d) To develop agriculture (e) To promote educational, moral, social and economic measures (f) To encourage co-operation and community efforts. (g) To initiate nation-wide campaigns, in accordance with the objects of this Federation. Thus, you see, it is not only 'common problems' but all the activities for which we are to be a clearing house, and we can initiate nation-wide campaigns only in accordance with the objects of the Federation.

The second is found on page five in the paragraph headed "Provincial Board of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario" when it says affiliated with the F.W.I.C. You are a Constituent member of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada for the Women's Institutes of Ontario is one of the nine units named in Article I of our general by-laws as the bodies forming the national Federation. This means that you have equal responsibility with the other eight provincial units in forming the policies of the national organization and in every way carrying on the work "For Home and Country".

The Federated Women's Institutes of Canada claims as a member 'any person who is and continues to be a member in good standing of any provincial unit, Institute ' so that when you have paid your yearly fee to your local Institute you become automatically a member of F.W.I.C. The national organization is your organization.

Now is the time to work towards national harmony and decent living for all within our bounds. 70,000 women joined with one purpose in the Institutes from coast to coast must needs be heard when their voices are raised in unity. Improvement of rural homes, development of local communities harmony within the nation and understanding of international questions demand our earnest consideration. In order that F.W.I.C. may speak for rural women, its Board must have an expression of opinion from each provincial unit and each of these units is dependent upon its members for guidance in the forming of that opinion.

The first Women's Institute was founded that rural women might 'acquire information concerning their responsibilities as homemakers and citizens'. Today we recognize these same two needs. For the biennial term 1945-1947 we are placing our work under two departments, — Home Economics and Citizenship. The first will cover Nutrition, Health and Housing; the latter, Education, National and International Relations, Community Efforts including Centres and Village Histories.

In all our work "For Home and Country" if we but keep before us "the common weal, The good of all mankind", we shall surely reach the high ideals towards which we strive. Let us do this both in the F.W.I.O. and the F.W.I.C.

Sincerely yours,
(Mrs. Cameron) Etta H. Dow,
President, F.W.I.C.

Mount Royal, Wentworth South:
A war bride committee has been formed to visit young war brides from overseas and give paid up membership to all wishing to join our Branch.

"THANK YOU" FROM N.F.W.I.

The following letter of thanks has been received by Mrs. W. B. Leatherdale, secretary, Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario from the Hon. Frances Farrar, general secretary of the N.F.W.I. expressing warm appreciation for the \$200. given to the N.F.W.I. from the Central Fund. This money was presented to Miss Elizabeth Christmas during her tour of the Women's Institutes of Ontario for delivery to the N.F.W.I.:

"Thank you very much for the most sympathetic reply to the tentative suggestion I made about Canada joining in our Relief in Europe Scheme. Miss Christmas just got back and heartily endorses what you say about the difficulties of the scheme in Canada. We quite appreciate these and think it is extremely generous of your Central Fund Committee to send 200 dollars towards the expense of the work here. Will you please thank the Institutes very warmly for this gift, which will be most useful, as the administrative expenses are quite heavy. Institutes have still much wool to knit up. Up to date we have knitted over 31 tons. May I say how tremendously Miss Christmas has enjoyed her tour in Canada. She cannot say enough about the wonderful hospitality with which you greeted her."

JAM FOR BRITAIN

The "Jam for Britain" project is well underway again this fall. Due to the scarcity of fruit in most Ontario centres, there has not been as much homemade jam promised as in former years.

The objective for 1945 was set at 250,000 pounds, the same as last year, but unfortunately due to the shortage of sugar, the Wartime Prices and Trade Board has been able to permit the export of only a limited quantity of commercially-made jam this year.

The government has now granted us permission to use the money contributed to the Sugar Fund by the W. I. Branches, to purchase such allowable food-stuffs as dried milk, concentrated fruit juices, dehydrated vegetables and a limited quantity of meats. A letter has gone to Britain asking which foods will be most appreciated over there. When the reply comes, shipments will be made at once.

All homemade jam and honey can be shipped overseas and up-to-date all that has been received in the warehouse has been of an exceptionally high quality. A great deal more of both is coming in than was at one time expected and the first shipment will go overseas the second week in October. Another shipment will be sent later in the month.

We are indeed grateful to all the Institutes who have made jam or contributed money and we are sure it will be your wish to use the Sugar Fund for these much needed food items and we can assure you that it will be most deeply appreciated in the nurseries and homes of Britain.

Ethel J. Cowan,
Jam Convener.

SEEDS FOR ENGLISH GARDENS

Many appreciative letters such as this one have been received: "Having enjoyed an excellent salad grown from seeds sent by our kind Canadian friends, I write to thank you as President of East Wittering Women's Institute for kind gift. I wish you could see my onions. They look like the picture on the seed packet and our Canadian tomatoes are the admiration of everyone. With grateful thanks."

Prince of Wales, Algoma Centre:
Fill first aid kits for the schools and supply them with library books.