

INSTITUTE MEMBERS ENJOY OVERSEAS CORRESPONDENCE

The following excerpts are from a letter received by Mrs. R. Boyes of Lefroy:

Program Exchange

"This time I am enclosing our program. As a result of program competitions ours was chosen as outstandingly good. We lost marks because we did not have sufficient practical work listed but special mention was made of our good choice of cultural subjects and Institute affairs. The first five programs chosen from our county contest are being used as specimen programs throughout England and Wales. We feel pleased to have this honour".

National Federation Meeting

"I attended our National Federation meeting in May. Her Majesty the Queen honoured us with a visit on the first day and addressed us. Miss Ellen Wilkinson M.P., Minister of Education, spoke to us and Lady Megan Lloyd George addressed the meeting on Foreign Affairs. It is a grand experience to attend such a large and representative meeting of our great movement".

"At our County Federation Meeting I heard a very interesting lecture on the United Nations Association".

Victory Parade

"I had the thrill of seeing the Victory Parade in London on June 8th. There were tickets issued by the Government to Women's Institute. Our County of Herfordshire had two, one for a member to march in the Parade and one for a member to watch. Each county represented its own special work during the war. My seat was near to Buckingham Palace in Constitution Hill and I was able to see all splendidly. I gave Canada's contingent a special cheer!"

W. I. College

"We were very sorry to hear the announcement of Lady Denman's retirement after such valued service to our movement. This was announced at the Albert Hall meeting and the wish was expressed by members that the Women's Institute College for which we are planning should be named Denman College."

Agricultural Show

At our Agricultural Show in July I am acting as a steward. H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth is visiting the Women's Institute Tent. We are planning to exhibit the various branches of our work".

Combined Arts Festival

"We have just held a successful Combined Arts Festival. The best W.I. team from each county will be a final Festival in London in November. At present our own Institute is rehearsing Gilbert & Sullivan's a "Trial by Jury". We have the husbands of the members in this and it is grand mutual interest".

"All over England and Wales there is a Literary Competition entitled 'This was my village' and it will be of great interest historically."

How fascinating it is to hear from our sister members all over the world. We realize the breadth and importance of our work by adding up the deeds accomplished by each member co-operating to do her share in the over-all picture. The sum total contribution to Home and Country is tremendous.

Can this not mean a cementing together of the homes of our people everywhere with understanding, fellowship and brotherly love into a world community and lasting Peace?

Would you enjoy establishing a letter friendship and exchange of programs with an Institute in Great Britain or elsewhere? Many of our women through Women's Institute "letter friends" are doing this and are gleaming new and interesting suggestions. Arrangements may be made through the Loan Library, Women's Institute Branch, Department of Agriculture, Toronto.

CONVENTIONS GO FORWARD

(Continued from page 2)

OUR DOMINION PRESIDENT

Mrs. Cameron Dow, O.B.E., F.W.I.C. president of Port Daniel, Quebec, honoured us by her presence at the Ottawa Area and the Central Area meetings. She brought an inspirational and informative message which made us realize more clearly than ever the scope of our work and the opportunities and responsibilities which we must share.

"As an organization," said Mrs. Dow, "we are strictly non partisan. True politics—the art of government—is above partisanship. So, while few of us may be endowed with the qualities of statesmanship, we should be politically minded. 51% of Canadian ballots are in the hands of women. It rests with us to use them in an interested and intelligent manner. We cannot do so unless we keep alive to the issues of the day and then cast our ballot not through party affiliations but by our reasoned judgment as to what is best for Canada, the province, township or school whichever it may be."

"At the F.W.I.C. Biennial Conference in 1945 the first recommendation brought in by the policy committee and accepted by the Board was: That properly qualified women be appointed to post-war councils." Action has been taken in several instances. It was noted that Mrs. Roosevelt was named to chair the committee on "Human Relations" of the United Nations Assembly. She chose her committee from the women delegates. A letter was sent by the F.W.I.C. to the Honourable Prime Minister expressing regrets that no Canadian was chosen on this committee since our government had not included one in its delegation. This fall a woman adviser to the Department of External Affairs was sent down with the Canadian delegation to the Assembly.

Other instances were cited in Mrs. Dow's talk to show the powerful influence we possess as a group of rural women united for a common cause.

Nevertheless, much more yet needs to be done. In referring to the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization Mrs. Dow pointed out that because we are both food and agriculture conscious, the F.W.I.C. felt that certain phases of the F.A.O. would be facilitated by the introduction of the women's viewpoint. Our government sent no women delegates to the Quebec conference. It is to be hoped that through our influence a woman will be sent next time.

"Another recommendation approved at the last Biennial was that we ask for a uniform allocation of 5c per member. This year with your province accepting this allocation, we have attained our objective. We have never been a money-making organization. Our whole budget has been dependent upon the voluntary contributions of our constituent members. The National organization has never had help from the Government.

"It was further approved that the Million Member Plan where by paying a penny or its equivalent one may become a member of the Associated Country Women of the World be recommended to the provinces for approval. Since the honour of being the first and only President of the World organization had been given to a Canadian woman, Mrs. Alfred Watt, who is retiring this year, it would be a very fine gesture of appreciation on the part of Canadian Institute members if we could support the Million Member Plan 100%."

In closing Mrs. Dow said, "A well known Canadian Educationalist has said "No organization in our country is so charged with possibilities for good as the Women's Institutes . . . its potential power is vastly greater than its actual power." We accept his statement as a challenge to forge ahead until our power is recognized throughout the length and breadth of the land as an actual force in the educational, economic, cultural and moral advancement of our communities both great and small."

We are a rural society. Living close to nature, we know the feel of "The Good Earth".

The Institutes have made us articulate; have given us breadth of vision; have filled us with pride in our heritage as country women. Let us take added pride in our membership in the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada."

PANEL DISCUSSIONS FEATURED

We highly commend the many interesting panel discussions featured at conventions this Fall.

At Hamilton a splendid panel on The Youth Commission brought forth lively discussion both from the five members of the panel and from the audience. The panel dealt with Youth in relation to Education, Religion, Employment, Recreation and Farming. We are all implicated in the outcome of the Youth Commission hence it behooves us to study it and to understand the attitude of youth toward the problems of the day.

Hamilton area featured a second discussion on Planned Programs. North and South Norfolk and Welland County recommend the use of a District planned program with a central theme or emphasis chosen for the year. Each Institute adapts the program to its own particular needs.

At London Area many salient points were brought out in the Panel Discussion chaired by Mrs. Edmund Hansuld on Woman in the Home, in the Community, in the National and in the International Sphere.

In her remarks Mrs. Hansuld stated, "Women have too long been the rescue squads to right the mistakes of men. Why not get out and do a good job as women in public life."

At Guelph a panel on Juvenile Delinquency, chaired by Mrs. T. D. Cowan, was organized under the four sub topics: "Juvenile Delinquency", "Health and the School Child", "Organized Recreation" and "Parent Education". In summing up the panel Mrs. Cowan stated, "We are all aware we have not solved the problem of Juvenile Delinquency. Our speakers have brought us much that can be of value to us. When we are back in our communities more ideas will be gleaned. Ideas are not enough. Let us express our ideas and put them into action. Women with vision and courage can do much to eradicate juvenile delinquency."

THE GIRLS' HOUR

We are proud of the work of our Juniors. The programs arranged and carried out by our Homemaking Club girls at the conventions this Fall were both entertaining and educational. It is our hope that next year every convention area in the province will arrange to have a "Girls' Hour" and that in next year's Home Economics reports we shall find that wherever there are girls from 12 to 26 years of age in a community the Institute in that community will have reported sponsoring Homemaking Clubs. The best time to interest prospective Institute members is while they are growing up.

To adequately report the activities of 13 convention areas in one article is an impossible task. All we can hope to give you are a few highlights. One article alone, if space would only permit, could be devoted to the splendid leadership given by the executive officers throughout the province.

So many very very important intangible things cannot be passed on to you through the medium of the written word. The spirit of good fellowship created, the inspiration gained from associating with splendid women of like mind, the sense of greatness felt when we find that each has her important place to fill in our great organization. We see how great things can be accomplished when each and everyone of us pull together seeking the common weal—the good of all mankind! Let us start now planning for even better, more inspiring conventions next year!

VOTE OF THANKS TO THE DOMINIONS BY N.F.W.I.

"It is my privilege in the name of the 303,000 members of the Women's Institute of England and Wales to ask the representatives of the Dominions of Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa to give the women of their countries our most grateful thanks for the wonderful generosity shown to us during the war and which indeed is still being shown to us.

The gifts have been of an extremely practical kind: canning machines for preserving our fruit, seeds for our gardens, cakes and jam for our depleted store cupboards, money and clothes for those who lost their homes through bombing—to name only a few. But besides the practical help, and let no one underestimate how much we enjoyed those cakes, we want especially to tell you people what their thought for us has meant. It has, I am sure, done much to bring home and make real the strength of the bonds that unite the countries of the British Commonwealth of Nations, but it has done more than this, it has given an example of good neighbourliness, of the responsibility of one human being for another, an example which I hope we may all follow, for upon this spirit the whole future of the world depends.

Once more from the bottom of our hearts we thank you."

Miss N. Tennant,
Vice-Chairman, N.F.W.I., and Chairman, International Sub-Committee.

MRS. CHAS. RUSSELL, ENGLAND, MISS SYBIL HILL, JAMAICA, HONOURED AT LUNCHEON

At a special luncheon arranged by Miss Anna Lewis, Superintendent, Women's Institute Branch, Mrs. Chas. Russell, A.C.W.W. executive officer and Miss Sybil Hill, Senior Social Welfare Officer, Lands Department, Jamaica, were special guests.

Col. the Hon. T. L. Kennedy and other Department of Agriculture officials were present as well as Women's Institute members representing the F.W.I.C., F.W.I.O. and Convention Areas across Southern Ontario.

Miss Hill, who had been visiting the Convention Area meetings and Co-operative Program and Homemaking Club Courses during the fall brought a special greeting from Jamaica. She stated "I have found that country women the world over are very much alike. The women of our country are dark but they want what you want—good roads, sanitary improvements, good schools". She stressed the importance of people of different countries getting to know one another.

Miss Hill's visit this fall has been greatly appreciated. We send back with her our very best wishes for success in organizing rural women's groups on the Island of Jamaica.

Mrs. Chas. Russell, former A.C.W.W. letter friend secretary, visited Ontario while on tour through United States to Australia and New Zealand. She related many instances describing the courage of our women in the occupied countries. Their eagerness to get back into the active work of our world organization is amazing.

An invitation has been received from the Holland members inviting the A.C.W.W. to hold its triennial meeting at Amsterdam in September, 1947.

Ontario is entitled to 5 voting delegates at this meeting. Let us hope we shall have at least this number in attendance.

Little Current, Manitoulin East: A baby clinic was sponsored by this branch and twenty-five babies were examined by a Public Health nurse. Have decided to sponsor a T.B. clinic for this area.

King City, York North: A memorial library has been started in King through the efforts of the W.I.

Everett, Simcoe South: Were influential in having an active medical health officer appointed and children of school age and pre-school age have had toxoids, vaccinations, and tuberculin tests.