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Provincial President's Tribute

The toast to "Our Institute" was proposed by Mrs. Hugh Summers, Provincial President, who paid tribute to the founders of the movement for implanting high ideas and ideals in the organization from the beginning. Mrs. Hugh Bertram, president of the Institute from 1924 to 1938, responded.

Mrs. A. Green, of the home Institute, proposed a toast to the guests, and Mrs. William Marritt, wife of Wentworth's agricultural representative responded.

After a presidential address of welcome, Mrs. Jackson introduced Mrs. J. E. Goodswan of Norwich, Norfolk County, England, who brought warm greetings from the Women's Institutes of England and Wales. She said the women of Britain could never repay the Canadian Women's Institutes for their help and support in the war years, citing specially the supplies of vegetable and flower seeds and of clothing sent overseas. She also thanked those Canadian women who had opened their homes and hearts to English children during the war, and on behalf of the Rural Institutes of Britain, she presented a bouquet of flowers, adorned with red, white and blue ribbons, to Mrs. Jackson, the president.

Brief messages were delivered by past presidents who were in attendance, these being Mrs. Hamilton Lee, Mrs. A. E. Walker, (also past president of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario and of Canada) Mrs. Hugh Bertram, Mrs. Thomas Dale, Mrs. J. Emberley and Mrs. L. Jones. In other cases, daughters of former presidents spoke on behalf of their mothers.

Daughter of First President
Is Guest Speaker

Mrs. G. D. Conant, the guest speaker, was introduced by Mrs. A. E. Walker. In opening her address, Mrs. Conant gave her recollections of the early days of the Stoney Creek Institute. "I do not remember that first meeting", she said, "But I do remember in later years my mother, Mrs. E. D. Smith, telling me she worried about neglecting her family but that Mrs. Hoodless persuaded her to be the first president".

Mrs. Conant recalled going to some of the meetings as a small girl, and amusingly related that whenever a subject of special interest to women was discussed, the doors were tightly closed in case some man should pass and hear what was said.

"The Institute motto 'For Home and Country' has a depth and warmth that stirs the heart. 'A sound family of nations begins with a nation of sound families'". Mrs. Conant then compared the meaning of the word home to Canadians and to the displaced persons of Europe. Telling of the trip she made to Europe last year Mrs. Conant spoke of the distress she saw there, and graphically told stories of the misery of the displaced persons and the children who were without homes and hope. She said men had lost self-respect because they could not provide for their families, and children in displaced persons' camps were growing up to despise people who worked.

Canadian women, said Mrs. Conant, could help relieve the distress in Europe by pressing for admission to this country of European girls and women to work as domestic and hospital assistants.

"Our young mothers are so tied with housework that small families will result, and more population is a crying need of Canada. Europe is full of desirable female persons who would make good Canadian citizens and would be grateful for the work Canadian women can provide. This action would aid in Europe's displaced persons' problem and extend a hand of friendship to those in need".

Miss Anna P. Lewis, Director of the Women's Institute Branch and Home Economics Service, in bringing

MRS. ADELAIDE HOODLESS - ORGANIZER



Mrs. John Hoodless (Adelaide Hunter Hoodless) was born on a farm at St. George in Brant County. She was a cultured and accomplished woman as well as a devoted wife and mother. Realizing the need for homemaking education, she devoted her life toward this cause and was instrumental in organizing our first Institute at Stoney Creek 1897.

greetings from the Department of Agriculture, said that the achievements of the past constituted a challenge to the women of today and tomorrow to build a living memorial of hundreds of thousands of Institute members the world over to work in the cause of rural women.

Others who brought brief messages of greeting were Miss Ethel Chapman, Miss Edith Collins, Mrs. Merry and Mrs. McEvoy, district presidents of the Wentworth County Institutes; Mrs. William Booth, Port Arthur; Reeve Piott of Stoney Creek and Reeve Milline of Saltfleet township. Another special guest introduced was Miss Muriel Bostwick, Hamilton, a granddaughter of Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless, founder of Women's Institutes.

The charter members who were present as honoured guests were Mrs. H. P. VanWagner, Mrs. McKinley Morden, Mrs. J. B. Davis, Mrs. Walter Ptolemy, Mrs. E. B. Thompson and Mrs. Murray Neil, Mrs. John Budge, Mrs. J. B. Smith and Mrs. George Millen and Mrs. Selby Cornan. Thus the pages of history were

turned back. By reviewing our progress we are given added courage to go on. We see we cannot stop here. A new era faces us. With the knowledge gleaned, experience gained and goodwill created we must go on to greater accomplishments. The country looks to the Women's Institutes. Shall we measure up?

Mrs. Laura Rose Stephen, our first government lecturer, sends us this message: "Our only looking back should be to obtain knowledge of what others have done—thus taking a step in advance of that. That is the secret of progress... The fields ahead abound with opportunities to be taken advantage of, emergencies to be met, tasks to be done and duties to be accepted—All these require our best endeavour. We must not become weary in well doing. We must strive nor stop to count the gain".

Her Excellency, Lady Tweedsmuir has said: "We have a great future before us. We have a steady influence because our roots are in the past, our mind and hands are working in the present, and our eyes are looking clearly into the future."

BRANCH INSTITUTES
THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE
CELEBRATE

To commemorate the founding of the Women's Institute organization and to pay tribute to its founders, Women's Institutes throughout the Province have been holding local celebrations.

These programs have shown originality and variety. Afternoon teas, banquets, family parties, rallies, grandmothers' meetings, old time festivals and anniversary pageants have held the limelight.

At all meetings high tribute has been paid to Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless and those charter members and friends of Stoney Creek who so successfully launched our organization.

Featured at these meetings, too, has been a resume of the Branch Institutes' accomplishments throughout the years. What a revelation! When all our accomplishments are added up we realize what a strong force for good our Institutes have exerted in our communities and throughout the world. We can be rightly proud of the progress we have made. WE TREASURE THE PAST.

We Take Stock

Most programs have demonstrated that through reviewing the accomplishments of the past we are spurred on to greater works in the future. Anniversary time has been a time to take stock of our Institute and our own individual contribution toward its success. We see where we have fallen down in spots and where we may improve in future. The true test of the success of our celebration will be its after effect. Have we been inspired to better our best? Shall we sincerely endeavour to put into practice the Mary Stewart Collect. Do we live the words of our ode: "Each shall seek the common weal, the good of all mankind"?

Some of us may in the past have been guilty of allowing petty jealousies to enter in. We cannot be true Institute workers if we allow this. Perhaps we have at times dwelt too long on unimportant details and have let the larger picture of unselfish service to humanity become clouded over. A few of us have allowed our program to become lopsided and have not kept ever before us the all inclusive constitution stressing education and culture, practical projects as well as the social side. Our program is built on six standing committees. Do we see that these form the framework of our meetings? This broad basis has been chosen with a purpose. Both rural and urban women are members of our groups and each can help the other broaden her viewpoint and enrich her life.

375 Celebrations Reported

To date we have read reports from 375 Branch Celebrations. Programs were exceedingly varied.

Among the interesting Roll Calls were: Why and Where I Joined The Institute, The Most Outstanding Happening I Recall In My Institute Life, What The Institute Has Meant To Me, A Highlight In Our Institute History, My Idea Of a Good Women's Institute Member, An Outstanding Benefit I Have Enjoyed Through Membership, How Can I Boost The Institute, A Suggestion For Community Improvement.

Mottos included: "Old Days Never Come Again Because They Would Get In the Way of The New"; "Grow Old Along With Me The Best Is Yet To Be"; "We're Never Too Old To Learn"; "By Their Works Ye Shall Know Them"; "The Old Order Changeth Giving Place To The New"; "A Backward Glance May Encourage Forward Strides".

It makes one's mouth water to read about the birthday cakes—two tier, three tier, four tier cakes all aglow with blue and yellow candles and handsomely decorated by members. Our youngest Institute featured little individual cakes each with one bright candle lighting the way and indicat-

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GREETINGS FROM BRITISH INSTITUTES

In the centre, above, is Mrs. J. E. Goodswan of Norwich, Norfolkshire, England, who brought greetings from the Women's Institute of Britain to the 59 Anniversary Banquet of the Stoney Creek W.I. On the left is Mrs. Hugh Summers, President of the F.W.I.O., and on the right, Miss Anna P. Lewis, Director, Women's Institute Branch and Home Economics Service.