

F.W.I.C. PRESIDENT BROADCASTS MESSAGE

Mrs. Cameron Dow, Dominion President during a special C.B.C. broadcast delivered the following message to Institutes across Canada:

Congratulations and happy birthday greetings to the Mother Institute at Stoney Creek, as it celebrates its golden jubilee. In fifty years the influence emanating from that first Institute has girded the world. We may not call ourselves a Women's Institute; we may be a Homemakers' Club, a Country Women's Association, a Jubilee Guild, or something else; but under all these names we are groups of rural women banded together in our work "For Home and Country". Each of us owes a debt of gratitude to the members of that first Institute and on behalf of all, I would say a special "thank you" to the charter members still with you. You ladies have given fifty years of service to the Women's Institute. We are glad to pay tribute to the adventurous spirit and breadth of vision that led you on.

Now our Institutes begin a new era. During the years we have so prided ourselves on our non-sectarian, non-partisan principles that we have been supine to questions of the day. The time has come to broaden our thinking; to go beyond home and country and remember that we are citizens of the world. Because of these principles, upon which our organization rests, we must learn to discuss fully and freely—without religious or political bias—all questions affecting rural women and rural homes. The Federated Women's Institutes of Canada face the future with the determination not only to discuss, but to get action on all such questions. When each of our 70,000 members lets her municipal, provincial or federal representative know just what rural women want, we shall get action.

As rural women, we want a stabilized but equitable agricultural policy. Sharing, as we do, in the production of foods, we seek for higher nutritional standards both at home and abroad. We shall follow with deep interest the work of the Food and Agricultural Organization.

We are aroused by the deplorable lack of health services in rural areas and the consequent high infant mortality in these districts. We believe that a solution to this problem must be the first consideration of any health plan.

We rejoice that no longer need we petition our government to dignify the granting of citizenship. There is work for us in helping to make Canadian Citizenship the desire of all. What about juvenile delinquency in rural areas, and surely it is time the rural voice was heard in the plea for penal reforms.

The first constitution set as a goal for its members the acquiring of knowledge, so, from the very beginning we have been interested in education. Resolutions have gone forward on the need of a text that will state with equal truth and clearness the three periods of Canadian history—1603-1763; 1763-1867; 1867 to the present. It is time we stopped "resolving" and used other means to accomplish this project.

Through our membership in the Associated Country Women of the World, we shall seek to strengthen our contacts with rural women in other lands. Fifty years of Women's Institute work lies behind us. We cherish it. Untold years lie ahead. With high courage, we face the future.

(Continued from page 4 column 4) ing its intention to grow to mightier brilliance. Candle lighting ceremonies were most impressive. At one celebration each President, as she expressed a wish for the Institutes future work, lighted candles for the years she had been in office. Another ceremony had candles lighted respectively for the Mother Institute, the Branch Institute, the District, the F.W.I.O., the F.W.I.C. and the A.C.

WINNING POSTERS IN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE ANNIVERSARY CONTEST



The above posters were winners in the Provincial Competition for posters announcing the Provincial celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the founding of the Women's Institute to be held at the O.A.C. Guelph on June 18, 1947. In judging, the posters were divided into senior and junior groups with winners declared in each and with the outstanding poster from the whole competition winning the Provincial Highest Special Award. Some very striking entries were received, as the pictures indicate. All posters were built around the theme for the Fiftieth Anniversary "We Treasure the Past—We Face the Future".

Hon. Thomas L. Kennedy, Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, and the Co-Editors of the Women's Institute 50th Anniversary Booklet, Mrs. A. E. Walker, Stoney Creek Institute and Miss Edith Collins, Women's Institute Branch, view the Provincial prize-winning posters.

Top row, left to right; 2nd prize, senior group, Mr. James Carse, New Dundee; 1st prize, senior group, Mr. John A. Murray, Ailsa Craig; Highest Provincial Award Special, Mrs. Conley Amos, West Montrose; 2nd prize, junior group, Sheila Webb, Utterson; 1st prize, junior group, Betty Anne Rogers, Stoney Creek.

Middle Row, left to right; posters submitted by Harold Marten, Port Dalhousie; Mr. John Oblein, Freeport Sanitarium, Kitchener; Mrs. Reading, Manotick; Miss Irene Stal, R.R. 5, Hamilton, and Billie Vance, Springmount.

Bottom Row, left to right, posters submitted by Miss Merle Gamble, Waldemar; Miss Florence Makins, S.S. No. 10, South Oxford; Miss Pearl Parker, Galt.

W.W., thus symbolizing the great gleam of light shining throughout our world because of Institutes working together.

Charter members held the place of honour. Several were presented with life membership pins. A true indication of our eagerness to go forward was exhibited by a number of districts who welcomed new Institutes as a part in their celebration. (Special tribute goes to Muskoka South who have organized six Institutes within the year).

Program items included popular songs down through the years, fashion shows, pageants demonstrating the origin and growth of the Institutes, the reading of early minutes, mock Institute meetings of former days and even a mock council meeting "Women Solve the Problems!" The originality of the above is most commendable.

Tweedsmuir History Books were displayed and received much favourable comment.

Press photographers were busy too. Both pictures and press clippings have told an interesting story. The Owen Sound Sun-Times proves in picture form "Even the Men Attend and Enjoy Women's Institute Meetings".

In summing up your wonderful accomplishments may we say—Well Done Institute Members Everywhere!—We are proud of your work. Now, let us go forward together to FACE THE FUTURE. We say with Mayor Anderson of Fort William, "Your organization is doing something which is particularly needed in the world at the present time. It is capable of bringing together people of different ideas, nationalities, religious beliefs and political beliefs. It brings you all together so that you can learn to live and work together", and Mrs. J. Cooper, Thunder Bay District "Much has been accomplished in the past fifty years but there is still a great deal more to be done. May we strive to bring what happiness we can to others, cultivate a deeper sympathy

and a wider steadier outlook until we reach our ultimate goal."

Those of us who have attended Golden Anniversary Celebrations feel as the ladies from Almonte have expressed it, "As the company dispersed, each was proud to belong to an organization that had accomplished so much in half a century and felt inspired to greater efforts in the work that lay ahead".

Surely we are inspired to do greater things because these women lived, because they had a vision and because they have built the foundation of our organization so strong.

A.P.L.

LADY ALBEMARLE, Chairman N.F.W.I. BROADCASTS TO CANADA

We publish below the text of the broadcast given by the Countess of Albemarle, Chairman of the N.F.W.I. on February 19th to Stoney Creek Institute, Ontario, Canada, on the occasion of their Jubilee. Lady Albemarle spoke for England and Wales, for the Scottish Women's Rural Institutes and for the Federation of Women's Institutes in Northern Ireland:

Dear Fellow-Members, I am speaking to you in the name of the 6,450 Women's Institutes of England and Wales, and I am also privileged to be the bearer of messages from the Scottish Women's Rural Institutes and the Federation of Women's Institutes of Northern Ireland. We all join in sending you our congratulations and our ever-grateful thanks for the wonderful movement that has brought happiness to countrywomen all over the world. Today, like children at a beloved mother's birthday party, we gather in spirit at your Jubilee. We can never repay the debt we owe to those pioneers who, on February 19, 1897, assembled at Squire's Hall, Stoney Creek, under the chairmanship of Mr. Erland Lee, to hear that great-hearted woman,

Mrs. Hoodless, speak of the importance of ministering to the health, happiness and general welfare of the rural home. As a result of that meeting, the Stoney Creek W.I.—the first Women's Institute in the world—came into being. From the beginning it took its stand. "For Home and Country". Surely in those words lies the success of the Institute movement, for they satisfy the deep need of the human heart to love and to serve. Its success was immediate. Institutes sprang up all over Canada. By trial and error was evolved that wonderful Constitution which has enabled countrywomen all over the world to meet, work and play together, and to learn from each other, irrespective of creed, party or social background.

It was during the 1914-18 War that Canada first gave to the rest of the world this product of the genius of her womenfolk. Mrs. Alfred Watt crossed the Atlantic to bring the Institute movement to England and Wales. We understand that she is to be with you today, so may we send her a special greeting? We are happy to tell her, and you, that we are still going from strength to strength and can report an increase of 46,000 members during this last year. Miss Emily Guest did the same great work for Scotland. Since then Federations have been formed in every quarter of the globe. It is now true to say that the W.I. Movement is the most widespread single organization for women in the world and that its contribution to the happiness and betterment of mankind is immeasurable.

We salute you today as successors of those founders whom we hold in love and reverence. With you we pledge ourselves anew to strive for Home and Country and with the ever-widening horizons of the Institutes we dedicate ourselves also to the work of fostering understanding and peace between all peoples.