

TEN PROVINCIAL PRESIDENTS HAVE GUIDED OUR F.W.I.O. SINCE ITS ORGANIZATION



Mrs. A. E. Walker,
Bartonville
1929-1932



Mrs. R. B. Colloton,
Lorne Park
1932-1935



Mrs. T. J. McDowell,
1935-1939



Mrs. Ernest A. Duke,
Port Carling
1939-1942



Mrs. Clarence Holmes,
Belleville
1942-1944



Mrs. Field Robertson, Lanark
1924-1927



Mrs. Wm. Todd, Orillia
1919-1920

Junior Institutes had their origin in groups of farm girls banding themselves together for patriotic work during the first Great War. In 1915 groups of girls in Elgin County formed sewing circles. In the same year a resolution was forthcoming from Ottawa convention, "Resolved that the Department of Agriculture be asked to co-operate with the Women's Institutes in formulating plans for the organization of Girls' Institute clubs in affiliation with Women's Institutes and that provision be made for directing and instructing the members along vocational and cultural lines".

Gore Bay, Manitoulin Island, had the honour of organizing the first "Girls' Branch of the Women's Institute".

From this time on Junior Institutes have been an integral part of our organization. Mr. Putnam in his 1916 report stated: "Of course we do not forget the girls. In fact I do not

The rapid development of Institute work rendered it advisable to hold three conventions in the fall of 1914 at London, Toronto and Ottawa. This introduced a new feature as up to this date only one annual (Provincial) convention had been held.

It had been the policy of the Department to consult with leading officers to decide upon policy. In 1914 delegates in convention were asked to appoint representatives to act upon an advisory committee. The Department looked to this committee as well as to the Women's Institute staff for advice and suggestions. In 1916 a Provincial Advisory Committee was elected with 17 divisions represented. This plan was followed each year until in 1918-19 the permanent provincial organization was set up.

We quote from the Superintendent speaking in convention February 2, 1919: "In consultation with the Provincial committee and its executive to be elected in convention it is the desire of the Department to assist in formulating plans for a permanent provincial organization upon a definite basis. It is the intention of the Department to assist the people of the Institutes in formulating plans for organization which will meet their needs and which may be co-ordinated with the efforts of the Department.

"A meeting of representatives of the Women's Institutes and other similar organizations throughout the Dominion, has been called for Winnipeg about mid February with a view to formulating plans for closer co-operation among these organizations and it is expected that a basis of permanent National organization will be decided upon.

"I hope this organization will be

Editor's note: We regret that we have no photos of Mrs. Edwards or Mrs. Stone for publication.

entirely of the people and that a separate committee or council will be formed among those directly connected with the Department of Provincial Governments offering assistance to the societies. Thus when matters of mutual interest are under consideration, the executive of the peoples' organization and the committee of Government officials can confer and work together".

On February 4, 1919, the resolutions committee under the convener-ship of Mrs. Wm. Todd brought in a resolution to set up a permanent board. Thus our F.W.I.O. Board had its beginning. From this board Mrs. Wm. Todd and Mrs. James Patterson were named representatives to the National Organization meeting held later in that month in Winnipeg. At this Winnipeg meeting the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada came into being with Mrs. Emily Murphy (Janey Canuck) as first national president.

Throughout the years the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario have been ably presided over by 10 provincial presidents: Mrs. Wm. Todd, 1919-1920; Mrs. Geo. Edwards, 1920-1924; Mrs. Field Robertson, 1924-1927; Mrs. J. W. Stone, 1927-1929; Mrs. A. E. Walker, 1929-1932; Mrs. R. B. Colloton, 1932-1935; Mrs. T. J. McDowell, 1935-1939; Mrs. Ernest A. Duke, 1939-1942; Mrs. Clarence Holmes, 1942-1944; Mrs. Hugh Summers, 1944-1947. From these Ontario presidents we have had two Dominion presidents, Mrs. Wm. Todd and Mrs. A. E. Walker of whom we are justly proud. To all these women we pay high tribute and extend our grateful thanks. Their vision and foresight, their capable leadership and untiring efforts have been of inestimable value in our progress towards maintaining our high standard—the best FOR HOME AND COUNTRY.

THE F.W.I.O.—HOW IT BEGAN

OUR JUNIORS

Junior Institute affiliation had its beginning.

The Junior Institutes were provided with the regular Institute courses and lectures as well as literature and customary supplies from the Department.

Garment making clubs and judging competitions became very popular and the "county coach" soon became endeared to the girls with whom she worked. The girls' conferences at Guelph, the Chicago Trip, the Royal Parties and the Canadian National Exhibition Judging Teams all broadened our outlook and gave us inspiration to better our best.

Three month and one month schools, organized in co-operation with the Agricultural Representatives' Branch, provided training for farm sons and daughters during the winter months.

The Homemaking Clubs for girls, introduced in 1934, were a fine step toward providing an integrated program in homemaking education.

think we should call our organization the Women's Institute without making it known that it is for the girls as well, and the girls are becoming more and more an important part of the organization. They are doing excellent work along patriotic lines . . . giving goods and cash to the mother organization. We cannot have anything too good for these girls when the war is over and they will be ready to take up work along other lines".

Their program expanded from 1916 on to include art and literature, drama, music, as well as home gardening, canning, first aid, home nursing and many other topics.

By 1918 there were 20 Junior Institutes in the province, some directly associated with the local Institute, others as separate societies. In various localities it became the custom to hold the Junior Institute meeting in conjunction with the boys' meeting. From this nucleus the Junior Farmer-



Mrs. Hugh Summers, Fonthill
1944-1947



Mrs. Cameron Dow, Quebec
F.W.I.C. President 1943-1947

Through local leaders many more girls could be reached and personal intimate leadership given.

In 1946 another step forward was taken when the F.W.I.O. asked that two Board Directors be elected by the Junior Institutes of Ontario in annual meeting to sit on the Provincial F.W.I.O. Board. A fine mother-daughter relationship has been set up. Membership among our Junior Institutes has steadily increased and we are happy to report that 14 Junior Institutes were organized in 1946.

The Junior Institute is organized primarily to assist young women in the field of personal, home and family and community living and to give them an opportunity to plan and work with others in purposeful activities for community betterment and intelligent citizenship.

Our best wishes go to you, our Juniors. You are a vital force in our vast organization.