

ESSAY WHICH WON TWEEDSMUIR TROPHY

The Women's Institutes of Ontario felt greatly honoured when the Tweedsmuir Trophy in the Essay competition was won by an Ontario Institute member, Mrs. J. H. Christian, R.R. No. 3, Woodville, a member of the Islay-Zion Women's Institute of the Victoria West District. Mrs. Christian's essay, on the subject, "The Book I have Most Enjoyed," is so outstanding that Institute members all over the Province will be pleased to have it published in "Home and Country". The essay is therefore published below.

THE BOOK I HAVE MOST ENJOYED

The book I have most enjoyed—tantalizing thought!—crowding into the routine of my busy day and clamouring for attention, begging me to leave the proven paths to go a-gypsying into unfamiliar fields. And yet—variety is the spice of life, and thus we grow.

But there are so many. Down the marching years they troop in slow review. Books, books, books! Old friends, grown dear through long acquaintance, others quite new, and all those in between. Each has ministered to some need or mood, has filled swift hours with romance, and clothed the commonplace in charm. Through your pages I have travelled far, learned much, tasted strange adventure, laughed, cried. How can I choose among you?

And then quite suddenly I know. Lying there, still open from our morning reading, is the Book of books—my favourite! Tenderly I take it up and leaf among its pages. Wrapped up between its worn covers is the best of all my books and much more besides. My earliest recollections have been of stories from its pages thrilling my childish heart, and now that I am older this storehouse of precious treasures is still a neverfailing source of pleasure and instruction.

Here, in words of haunting beauty I read the answer to the riddle of my life, the present, past and future. Like stepping into a hall of mirrors I see myself on every side, startling, strange. Yet, too, it points the way where I may find myself as pure and lovely as I long to be. Within its pages I find a love more wonderful than any penned by man. The Prince of Glory came to woo and win his captive bride, of which I may be part. Through the medium of such love my whole life becomes transformed and glorified. I am no longer a stumbling wanderer on life's way but each step is ordered by the Lord. My kitchen is my palace and humdrum tasks take on a nobler meaning. Again I read: the price of a virtuous woman is above rubies. She looketh well to the ways of her household—not the office or the club—but to her household. And if at times I long for greener fields these words reveal my humble role in the fulfilling of a divine decree, and I am comforted. 'Her children, too, rise up and call her blessed'. What more could heart desire—to make of these four walls home where love and truth abide. For every problem, for every sorrow there are words of wisdom, comfort, power. The birdsong, the bursting buds speak the promise: seedtime and harvest shall not cease. Through miracle of crocuses and daffodils blossoming from the cold brown earth I hear a beloved voice: "Rejoice, because I live ye shall live also."

And so, on this beautiful spring morning I make my choice, confident that no other shall transcend for permanent enjoyment this dear old book—the Bible. For books may come and books may go but it goes on forever!

Dunrobin, Carleton West: Electricity was used for the first time in local Orange Hall, movies and talks sent out by the Federation of Agriculture. Posters judged from local school and \$2.00 divided in prize money.

SCENES AND PERSONALITIES AT WOMEN'S INSTITUTE CELEBRATION



From across Canada—left to right: Mrs. S. E. Gummow, British Columbia; Mrs. Hugh Summers, Ontario; Mrs. Elton Smith, Nova Scotia; Mrs. Cameron Dow, Quebec and Mrs. Julian Herring, P.E.I.



Visitors from the U.S.A.: Mrs. G. H. Brown and Mrs. Walker G. Fenton, from Michigan, being welcomed by Mrs. Hugh Summers, F.W.I.O. President.



East meets west: Mrs. Cameron Dow, from Gaspe, past president, F.W.I.C. greets Mrs. E. E. Morton and Mrs. A. B. McGarman, from Alberta.



Some Anniversary Committee members: Mrs. Gordon Maynard, Mrs. Ernest Duke, Mrs. A. E. Walker, Mrs. J. K. Kelly and Mrs. H. R. McCrie.



Executive Board Members: Mrs. W. McClure, Brampton; Mrs. Ben James, Clayton and Mrs. John McCulloch, secretary, Brampton.



From the Past: Mrs. A. E. Walker, past president, F.W.I.O. and F.W.I.C.; Mrs. Laura Rose Stephen, first government organizer, and Miss Marjorie Lee, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Erland Lee, the W.I. pioneers.



A typical bus-load: That of the Fonthill Women's Institute—arriving at the O.A.C. for the 50th Anniversary Celebration.



How they ate lunch: A typical group of Women's Institute members enjoying a picnic lunch on the O.A.C. Campus.

FOLLOWERS NEEDED ALSO (By Mae Clendenan, Farmer's Advocate)

One begins to wonder if we are making too much of leadership. Leaders are as diverse as any other group, sharing just one thing in common—their followers. Most of us are destined to be followers and quite content to be in the tail of the comet. But if democracy is to survive we must have intelligent wide-awake citizens.

Why not give the best possible education to each individual, according to his capacity? Conditions call for leaders, but to attach the label of leader to the untested and to youth is to invite disappointment and to put individuals and groups out of step with their neighbours. In a democracy, responsibility is shared by all. We choose those to whom we delegate authority and we get the government we deserve. Wise choice demands

that we be alert, aware of conditions; not swayed by slogans, prejudice, partisan emotions. Too often loyalty is thought of as blind, dumb, unquestioning devotion to a leader or a slogan. This was the path down which the Nazi rushed to his doom. Hitler was a great leader—because he had so many followers.

Partisans are the enemies of progress. They do not want to perceive nor to understand, for that implies accepting responsibility. The British with their age-old habit of personal freedom taught the world a lesson in the past decade. Personal freedom can exist only with personal responsibility. Let us have followers who go with the leader as long as he is true to their trust. An alert, informed, sincere group, from a village club to an international society, will call forth leaders worthy to be at the head of such a procession.

Remember that the Women's Institutes conquered the world not by propaganda and huge investments in publicity, nor by producing a few leaders. They circled the globe because they had a good idea, because self-education is the basis of their programme, and because every wife and mother and homemaker is concerned with the same basic problem.

BIRR W.I. TREASURES MISS GUEST'S JEWELLED PIN

The jewelled pin which had been presented to Miss Emily Guest, one of the two Canadian women who introduced Women's Institutes to Great Britain, became the treasured possession of Birr W.I. Mrs. Earle M. Grose, sister of Miss Guest and first president of Birr W.I. presented the pin. It is to be worn by each president during her term of office.