

# HOME and COUNTRY

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## F. W. I. O. ELECTS NEW PRESIDENT AT ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

This has been a busy and most eventful year for the F.W.I.O. and their fall meeting held in the Royal York, Toronto, on November 27, 28 and 29 had one of the heaviest agendas on record.

### MRS. SUMMERS COMPLETES THREE YEAR TERM

Mrs. Hugh Summers, after three years of devoted and untiring service, completed her term of office as Provincial President. At the end of the November session she handed over the F.W.I.O. gavel of authority to Mrs. J. Robinson Fletcher. Mrs. Summers, in her address to the Board, reviewed the accomplishments of the F.W.I.O. during her tenure of office.

They were years of many changes and of great interest. In her first year we saw the close of the war, the making of adjustments and the changing of plans to suit the times. During these years we said farewell to Miss Clarke and a committee from the F.W.I.O. had for the first time in the history of the organization the privilege of assisting the Minister of Agriculture in choosing the new Superintendent and all agreed that we had been very happy in our choice.

The F.W.I.O. was given a place on the Royal Commission on Education and a Brief was prepared and presented.

The Adelaide Hoodless Foundation Fund was set up and has reached the amount of \$20,000. The Fiftieth Anniversary has been celebrated, its success due to the excellent work done by the committee in charge.

A Brief on Temperance was presented to the Premier of Ontario, with Mrs. J. R. Fletcher, Board Director, as chairman of the committee which was made up of representatives from Provincial women's organizations.

Last year the Junior set-up was clarified. Two Junior members were appointed to sit on the board and a very fine relationship between the Juniors and Seniors has been built up.

The Hand Book has required a great deal of time and thought. Due to the tremendous amount of work involved with the Fiftieth Anniversary preparations and the Amsterdam Conference no Hand Book report could be made at the fall board meeting.

The Biennial and the A.C.W.W. Conference provided a fine means of seeing at first hand the Dominion-wide and world-wide picture of Women's Institute work.

Mrs. Summers urged that we widen our horizons and realize that we must be concerned not only with things in our own community but we must consider the welfare of our own nation and other nations.

### SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

This report made us wonder how one head and one pair of hands could accomplish all that she told of doing. In one year 2,710 letters were sent, there were 38 trips to the bank and 11,406 pieces of F.W.I.O. supplies counted out and mailed. The latter consisted of Hand Books, Song Books, Life Membership Certificates, Photographs for Tweedsmuir Histories and Women's Institute seals, etc.

Because of the additional work involved by the Fiftieth Anniversary, at the April Board meeting the members voted a gratuity of \$200 to Mrs. McCulloch to partially compensate for the extra work this year.

(Continued on page 1, col. 4)

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

How do you do Ontario Women's Institute Members!

To many of you I am a stranger, but in pride in our organization and high hopes for its future, you and I find common ground.

1947—the fiftieth year of the founding of our organization, will soon be behind us. But the achievements and the satisfaction of fifty years of unselfish service remain. Women of vigour and vision, fifty years ago, laid the foundation stones of our Women's Institute straight and true. I know it is your prayer, as it is mine, that we have the insight and spiritual strength to continue building in like manner.

That most wonderful and satisfying day at Guelph, with its beauty and its inspiration, was a fitting climax to fifty years of unselfish effort—Thousands of us, paying tribute that day to everything that our Institute stands for, went home with high resolves to greater effort.

The thought I want to leave with you for the new year is "Active Citizenship" in the four spheres of home, community, national and international. Active citizenship in the home embraces all our Institute program of better living and better home-making. Here we lay the first foundations of good citizenship by teaching our children, loyalty, tolerance and co-operation.

Active citizenship in our communities calls for our support of all worthwhile projects—such as community centres, play-grounds, parks, etc. It means constructive interest in our schools and health units. It calls for active help for our Juniors and the absorption of newcomers into community life. Be zealous in extending membership—rural women need the privileges and means of service that our organization offers.

1947 saw us with Canadian citizenship for the first time. The highest form of citizenship is use of franchise—the lowest form is espionage. Immigrants are flocking to our shores. We must help mould these different



MRS. J. R. FUTCHER,  
F. W. I. O. PRESIDENT

nationalities into one great Canadian spirit. Canada needs their craftsmanship and their thrift. By another generation they'll make splendid citizens.

The war has made world citizens of us all. Our citizenship effort must now be international in scope. How fortunate we Women's Institute members are for through our International Organization we can so easily help to promote international understanding! Remember in planning next year's program to set aside the February meeting for International Day.

What an interesting future lies ahead really making citizenship work! To Mrs. Summers I say "Thank you for a job well done!"

I will do my best, as far as I am able, to follow her example of devoted service and outstanding leadership.

And now, may happiness and satisfaction go with you in your work as you face the New Year.

Dorothy E. Fletcher,  
R.R. 1, St. Thomas

### WE WELCOME OUR PRESIDENT

Women's Institute members from all parts of the province welcome our new Provincial President, Mrs. J. Robinson Fletcher.

A teacher before her marriage, Mrs. Fletcher lives on a farm near St. Thomas, in Elgin County. She has one son at home on the farm, a daughter in training for a nurse and twins attending St. Thomas Collegiate.

For twenty-four years Mrs. Fletcher has been an active Institute member. During that time she has held various offices in her Branch and District. She was first elected to the F.W.I.O. Board in 1944 and while serving on the Board acted as liaison officer between the F.W.I.O. and Wartime Prices and Trade Board, was Chairman of the Finance Committee and was instrumental in organizing a delegation comprised of representative provincial women's organizations to present a beverage room brief to the Prime Minister of Ontario.

Mrs. Fletcher has always been looked upon with high esteem by her many friends and associates. She

has made an outstanding contribution toward the welfare of her community by taking an active part in all worthwhile community enterprises. She has served on the Elgin County Federation of Agriculture executive, the St. Thomas Music Club and the Elgin Historical Society executive.

Her friendly personality, her clear, logical mind and her knowledge of and experience in Institute work all admirably fit her for the very responsible position she has been elected to fill.

The Women's Institutes of this province extend warmest congratulations and good wishes for a successful tenure of office as President, Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario and pledge co-operation and support.

Elma Centre, North Perth: Give donations for upkeep and beautification of cemeteries, help with local fair, keep first aid kits in six district schools, assist with funds for public library.

### REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, WOMEN'S INSTITUTE BRANCH

Miss Anna P. Lewis, Director, presented a highly encouraging report on activities. Forty new Institutes have been organized and 3 re-organized since April 30th, 1947 bringing the total up to 1,350 Institutes, 54 of which are Junior Institutes. Our total membership is over 38,000. Of the 99 districts, 92 had requested departmental services this year and 404 short courses for Institutes have been arranged.

The need for stimulating interest among the younger women was pointed out and an appeal was made that board directors encourage branches and districts to fulfil their obligations with reference to attendance at and arrangements for departmental services. "It is our aim", said Miss Lewis, "to bring to the women of this province the best service possible and this can only be done when each Institute participating accepts its responsibilities".

The staff of the Women's Institute Branch and Home Economics Service now is comprised of 39 Home Economists, Field Assistants and clerical workers.

### Adoption of Overseas Institutes

One hundred and three British Institutes have been adopted by the Women's Institutes of Ontario. In speaking about this scheme Miss Lewis pointed out, "It is not alone the money and coupon value of articles sent overseas, it is much more than that, an intimate interest is taken by each of our Institutes in a sister Institutes overseas. Letters are sent, Institute programs and ideas exchanged and a closer bond of friendship and understanding established between our women and the women of the Old Land. We found in visiting their Institutes that it meant a great deal to them to know that we are personally interested in them and truly care. It is a real morale booster".

Any Institutes wishing to adopt a British Institute may secure a secretary's name from Miss Anna P. Lewis, Parliament Buildings, Toronto.

Members were reminded that books depicting life in the British Isles are procurable from the Loan Library, Women's Institute Branch and Home Economics Service. These books have been sent as a token of appreciation for the help given to British Institutes during the war years. Requests for pen pals in other lands may be secured from the same address.

### Kindergarten of the Air

Miss Lewis urged that we give local publicity to the Kindergarten of the Air program which is broadcast over CBC stations at 10.15 a.m. Monday through Friday. The Women's Institutes, by sending in letters of appreciation to CBC will influence the continuance of this worthy project.

### Fiftieth Anniversary Film

Two 16 mm. films on the Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration will be available to Institutes throughout the province. A 10 minute black and white sound film entitled "For Home and Country" produced by the National Film Board, Ottawa, is now ready for circulation and may be procured through the National Film Board rural circuits. The other, a 16 mm. 30 minute technicolour film, produced by Mr. John Columbo for the Women's Institute Branch and Home Economics

(Continued on page 2, col. 2)