

SCENES FROM FILM "LET THERE BE LIGHT



Braided and Hooked Rugs displayed by Miss Edith Hopkins and women from Waterloo County.



Miss Sarah Janes, Women's Institute Branch and Home Economics Service, conducts a class in Weaving.



Miss Grace Hamilton, R.N., nurse on the staff of the Women's Institute Branch, gives a demonstration on home nursing.

These pictures were all taken at Kitchener during the filming of the Work of the Women's Institutes.

Miss Anna P. Lewis, Director of the Women's Institute Branch and Home Economics Service, directed the film. The film story was written by M. McIntyre Hood, who, along with Miss Lewis does the narration of the commentary on the film. Technical advisers were W. D. Tolton, Director of Public Relations, O.A.C.; Mrs. J. R. Fitcher, President, and Mrs. Hugh Summers, Past President of the F.W.I.O. It was produced by John A. Colombo, Kitchener.

The film will now be available for showing to Women's Institutes all over Ontario and the rest of Canada, and a copy is being sent to Ontario House, London, England, where it will be available for showings in Britain.

To secure this film write direct to the Department of Public Relations, Film Extension Division, Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph.

CONSERVATION

"Real continuity—real love of one's country—real permanence—has to do with the earth and man's love of the soil upon which he lives".

In carrying out our aim of the Women's Institute, "For Home and Country", we have confined our activities more to matters within the realm of the home and of those social services which pertain to it and the community. In these affairs our members have demonstrated their pre-eminence in conservation, therefore, there will be little difficulty in broadening the extent of interest especially when the subject is of such vital importance in our lives.

During this period of history changes seem more evident than in former times. Some pass almost unnoticed right before our eyes, and their importance is not realized until it is almost too late to rectify them. Yet there are many changes in our farm lands that even our younger members must have noticed—for example—dry wells that used to be flowing all the year—creeks and rivers that flowed all summer, which now in summer are almost dry, while in spring they are in full flood, overflowing their banks and cutting ever deepening gullies in the hillsides, carrying away the precious top soil that has taken centuries to put there. At a Georgia State Agricultural College one acre of ground farmed by the usual methods used in cotton cultivation, showed an average loss of 127 tons of top soil a year, over a period of five years. This is going on all over at varying degrees.

The conditions and developments pertaining to them have worried those studying them for some time and it is only wisdom for the general public to get information and realize it for themselves.

There are a number of causes but the first to be mentioned is the depletion of the forest and wood lot, which should never be left unfenced and grazed, and the draining of the swamps, those natural reservoirs of the country. It is said the effective woodlot area is now under 10% in Ontario whereas to hold the normal soil water table throughout the year 20% is necessary.

For those studying statistics closely the fact is known that our soil in Ontario is not producing per acre what it did formerly. This is more evident in the old settled counties, but there is no more easily accessible virgin soil for poor farmers to move "to mine" or "to destroy" as some, not too strongly, name it. We all know poor soil makes poor crops, poor scrubby stock, poor undernourished people, and none know better than our members that as an individual's diet becomes limited he loses energy, intelligence and initiative. This condition can soon pervade the whole economic structure of a nation. We have only to study the history of China, India, Syria and Northern Africa to realize where present methods are leading us.

This predicament is due in part to the early settlers looking on the trees as an enemy and a fire menace, and later to the carelessness and the lack of knowledge of those who derived their own living and that of their country from the land. Agriculture is the base of our whole economy. It is the stability of our nation both in production and men—for many of our greatest men have come from the farm. Therefore, it is a challenge like that which confronted the first pioneers. Good farmers and farmers' wives must be the most intelligent, deeply interested and well versed in agricultural subjects.

To gain this objective, there must be earnest study by observation of books. These can be secured from the Ontario Forestry Department in the following booklets: (1) Ganaraska Report, (2) Report of the Ontario Royal Commission on Forestry, (3) Note Book of a Conservationist Abroad, (4) Conservation and Post War Rehabilitation, and other pamphlets which will be very enlightening though often depressing. But one is

encouraged when one learns that it may not be too late to restore old worn out farms, and that sufficient woodlots, if now planted, will retard the run off and maintain the water supply for all purposes through the year. The following pamphlets from the same source and also the Department of Agriculture deal with these subjects: (1) Reforestation and Its Relation to Conservation, (2) Farm Home Planting, (3) Making Money and Saving Soil, (4) Farm Fertility Facts, (5) Trees for Schools, (6) Improvement of Rural School Grounds, (7) The County Reforestation Act, (8) Farm Woodlots in Eastern Canada, from the Committee on Forestry, National Research Council of Canada, Ottawa.

Further two excellent ones from the American Agricultural Department, Washington, D.C.: (9) Farm Bulletin 1810, (10) Conservation of Water Bulletin (173-2).

Then in a very pleasant form, but startlingly clear, facts as stated by Louis Bloomfield in "Pleasant Valley", also "Natural Principles of Land Use", by Edward N. Graham, and greatest of all, "The Agricultural Testament", by that great Englishman, Sir Albert Howard. For those who wish to bring the matter home into their own gardens, "Pay Dirt", by J. I. Rodale who also wrote "Compost and How to Make It".

The Ontario Agricultural Association and the Forestry Committee are doing good work but they need and welcome the force and power of the intelligent action of the Women's Institutes in helping to inform the general public, arouse the Municipal Councils to establish township and county forests on waste land and improve the methods of land use that conservation of soil, water, trees, plants and wild life may be assured.

It is a suggestion that the branches have their members study some at least of the above pamphlets and books and place them in the Public and High Schools as well as in Public Libraries and, after placing them in the Schools, information be secured from the Head Office of the Ontario Horticultural Association about the annual contests that Mr. J. E. Carter personally sponsors and have the pupils enter these competitions.

The need is tremendous and as Canada is being looked to more and more as a source of food to supply world-wide shortages we must accept and assume our share of this great responsibility if we wish to be good citizens.

(Jessie H. Gillies, Arnprior, Conservation and Reforestation Committee, Ont. Horticultural Assoc.)

HEALTH STUDY BUREAU MATERIAL

The sending of Health Study Bureau material to Branch Institutes has been discontinued. This material is still available and can be secured by writing direct to the Health Study Bureau, 30 Bloor St. West, Toronto 5.

JUNIOR WOMEN'S INSTITUTE AND JUNIOR HOMEMAKING CLUB SCHOLARSHIP FUND

On March 15, 1948, \$19,000 was turned over by the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario to the Ontario Agricultural College for scholarships for Macdonald Institute. The balance of the Adelaide Hoodless Fund will be used as a nucleus for a fund for scholarships for rural girls participating in Homemaking Club and Junior Institute Activities. It is hoped that many donations will be forthcoming from Women's Institutes, and that Branch Institutes will give local publicity to this and do everything in their power to raise the balance in this fund, in order to give assurance that these scholarships will be continued over a number of years.

Send donations direct to Mrs. John H. McCulloch, secretary-treasurer, F.W.I.O., R.R. 2, Brampton, Ont.