

# HERE AND THERE WITH WOMEN'S INSTITUTES AT DISTRICT ANNUALS

The Ontario Women's Institutes held ninety-nine district annual meetings during the weeks from May 21st until June 19th. The general impression from the meetings the writer attended indicated increased interest and greater activity. One district reported four new Branches organized during the year and another had an increase in membership of one hundred.

A typical press report reads as follows: "The church was beautifully decorated with flowers. The central basket contained purple iris and yellow tulips. There are twenty-three branches in the district with a membership of 810 and a cash balance of \$2,016.19. Sixteen of the Branches adopted Women's Institutes in England and gifts of food parcels were valued at \$150.00. The total amount of money given during the past year to groups outside the Institute totaled \$1,866.50".

Institutes have made generous donations of money and supplies to several hospitals. One Social Welfare Convener read a letter of appreciation of the welcome gift of One Thousand Dollars from the Institute which, with a previous gift of Five Hundred Dollars, will equip the obstetrical suite at the hospital.

Save the Children Fund, Children's Aid Society, Salvation Army, Institute for the Blind, Cancer and T.B. Clinics, Navy League and many community service groups have received financial assistance.

The districts near Ottawa are stressing care of wards of the Children's Aid Society by organizing a district project whereby each Institute will provide clothing for one child and one wardrobe for each district will be on display at Ottawa Fair to stimulate greater interest in this much needed service.

One Institute presents a fountain pen to the pupil receiving the highest marks in the Entrance Class of the four schools within the area of their Institute and Kemptville W.I. have a permanent prize of six silver teaspoons for the student obtaining the highest marks in the Home Economics Course at Kemptville Agricultural School.

South Lanark has revived its interest in a Drama Festival and anticipates having all thirteen Branches competing next year.

Several districts were congratulated on having 100% reports received by conveners of standing committees.

Tentative plans have been made by the counties in the south-western area to entertain an English guest from Hertfordshire Women's Institute during a visit this summer and the recent visit of Lady Haworth from Cheshire, England, will long be remembered by all who had the privilege of hearing her during her recent visit to Canada.

Many Institutes have arranged social evenings to welcome new arrivals from other lands and presented them with gifts. These often included a membership in the local Women's Institute and assurance of the goodwill to be found in Canada. We make an appeal that in our hearts we visit the desperately sick countries of Europe, wish the same sort of help we would extend to any neighbour-in-need—to send all that we possibly can for food, medicine, and clothing. Not tomorrow, but now!

The announcement that the Board had decided to keep the scholarship fund open for another year will be greatly appreciated by Junior Institute and Homemaking Club Members for whom scholarships will be provided to encourage rural young women to continue their studies.

Resolutions were passed asking for legislation to enforce confinement and medical treatment for sex offenders; to request the Department of Health to order fumigation of verminous houses; to enforce strict censorship of movie films, magazines, books and comic strips to help control juvenile delinquency; to provide pensions for permanently disabled citizens; to allow manufacture and purchase of



## UPPER LEFT: EAST ELGIN ANNUAL AT SPARTA

Dedication of hard maple tree at Sparta.

Left to right—Mrs. F. L. McDougall, Board Member; Mrs. Russell Mills, President, Sparta Sorosis Branch; Mrs. Williams and Miss Anna P. Lewis, Director.

## UPPER RIGHT: OXFORD SOUTH ANNUAL AT VERSCHOYLE

Left to right—Mrs. J. A. Gillett, retiring District Secretary; Mrs. Gordon Baskette, President, Mount Elgin W.I.; Mrs. Bert Litt, Board Director; Mrs. John Pollard, President, Verschoyle W.I.

## LOWER LEFT: MIDDLESEX WEST ANNUAL AT GLENCOE

Left to right—Mrs. J. Simpson; Mrs. W. L. Ferguson, President, No. 9 Mosa Women's Institute; Mrs. Henry Harman; Mrs. John Mitchell and Mrs. R. B. Moore.

## LOWER RIGHT: THUNDER BAY ANNUAL AT SOUTH GILLIES

Left to right—Lady Dorothy Haworth, Cheshire Federation of Women's Institutes, England; Mrs. J. Booth, District President; Miss Irene McBride, Women's Institute Branch.

oleomargarine when desired; to close Women's beverage rooms; to decrease the postage rates for parcels of food and clothing sent overseas; to ask the Federal Government to increase exemption allowance for income tax purposes to \$1,000 for single persons and \$2,000 for married persons. Other resolutions of local interest dealt with a strict enforcement of Weed Control Act and dumping unsightly refuse on country roads and, as in former years, the rural people generally express their disapproval of Daylight Saving Time and request its discontinuance.

A country woman is no longer inarticulate. Through the Women's Institutes she may make her voice heard and ensure that due attention is paid to calls for reforms which will lead to a better and fuller life in the country home. The homemaker is a vital factor in our Canadian way of life and life's higher values may be attained by the direct choice of the thinking women in the home.

Ontario Women's Institutes have entered upon the second half century of service "For Home and Country". Distances have been reduced by improved methods of transportation and communication, with the result that that events anywhere in the world are of vital concern to us. We are world citizens now and must face the challenge of the times. We cannot stand still, we dare not go back. Therefore we must move forward to even greater usefulness.

A fine example of what women do when working co-operatively is shown in the announcement, "Operation Produce" sent out by the National Federation of Women's Institutes in response to an appeal from the Ministry of Food to increase production of food in Great Britain.

### "OPERATION PRODUCE"

Once again the country people of

Great Britain are called upon to produce more food.

The farmers have their target—let us as Women's Institute members have ours.

If every member increases her production by 10 lbs. that will mean a total of nearly 3,490,000 lbs. for the country.

The National Federation Agricultural Sub-committee offers you this practical plan for your consideration.

That every W.I. joins the "Operation Produce" Campaign.

That every W.I. adds one more agricultural activity to their already very full program.

That if possible the effort be a co-operative one.

That each W.I. keeps a record of achievements in food production. These will be collected by the County and forwarded to the National Federation who will publish the result as a record of the W.I. contribution to the country's economic recovery.

Here are suggestions for your co-operative effort.

Choose at least one, or perfect one you have already started. If none of these suggestions appeal to you, think of others.

#### Livestock

1. Form a Pig Club, or get more individual members to keep pigs. Organize a collection of swill.

2. Organize a scheme encouraging members to kill off all unproductive hens and replace with pullets bought co-operatively from accredited breeders. Ask the farmers for permission to glean.

3. Form Rabbit Clubs. This is the quickest way to produce meat.

4. Explore the possibility of keeping goats. These produce milk-butter-cheese and kids for meat.

#### Fresh Produce

5. Take an Allotment and work it co-operatively.

6. Raise good seedlings for sale in the village and nearest market.

7. Grow extra food for pigs and poultry on spare land.

8. Grow herbs individually and dry them co-operatively.

9. Start a Soft Fruit Drive:

(a) Clean up gardens by burning diseased stock.

(b) Buy certified stock co-operatively.

(c) Organize instruction.

10. Form gangs to help farmers at busy times, i.e. fruit picking—potato planting and lifting, etc.

#### Preservation

11. Organize and register Preservation Centres.

12. Form Preservation Clubs.

13. Bottle surplus fruit in water for sale at the London Exhibition.

#### Marketing

14. Start a Market Stall.

15. Take part in a County Marketing scheme.

16. Grow for Markets on every foot of spare land.

These suggestions should be considered by every W.I. member and not only by the Produce Guild.

#### Produce Guild

Extra instruction will be needed through the Produce Guild so that members will be better equipped to help others.

Make your plans quickly, remembering that the first three months of the year are the most difficult where food is concerned.

Save waste-store, preserve or market everything available.

Appoint someone in every W.I. to keep your "Log". Look out for further particulars of "Operation Produce" in Home and Country.

Advance With All Speed—Operation Produce

(Miss E. M. Collins.)