

LADY HAWORTH VISITS NORTH-WESTERN ONTARIO

The north-western districts of the Women's Institutes of Ontario have been privileged to play hostess to a charming and gracious guest from England, Lady Haworth, Chairman of the Cheshire Federation of Women's Institutes. Lady Haworth attended the District Annual meetings of Thunder Bay, Kenora, Rainy River East, Rainy River Centre and Rainy River West Districts. She addressed each meeting and chatted with the members, meeting war brides who were thrilled to talk with someone lately come from the land that was their old home and with many who came to Canada years ago. Everywhere Lady Haworth's warm friendliness, charming naturalness and disarming spontaneity, made people feel they were meeting an old friend.

In her address, Lady Haworth brought greetings from sister Institutes in England and told of present life and conditions there from the standpoint of a homemaker. She said it was thrilling to come so many thousands of miles and find women with the same interests, objectives and ideals. First, she told something of her own village, its marked characteristic, that of age, being in marked contrast to villages here. The most active organization in the village is the Women's Institute which numbers about ninety members, an average sized Institute for England, she remarked. The Women's Institutes during the war had a difficult time but carried on and grew in numbers. Drama and Handicrafts occupy much attention. An increasing interest is being shown in public questions. Lady Haworth told of the new venture of the National Federation of Women's Institutes in setting up Denman College, a residential school where members can obtain, at a small cost, instruction in such practical fields as Handicrafts, Marketing and Cooking, as well as in the fields of Citizenship and World Affairs.

The main activity of the Women's Institute members at present is "Operation Produce". Because of the food shortage, all are being urged to produce more food stuffs. The farmers have done a remarkable job and now produce one half of the nation's food as compared with one-third before the war. The farm worker in England today enjoys a rather satisfactory status; he is a very important person; he has a 48-hour week and has to be paid overtime if he works longer; he has to be given certain statutory holidays and there are minimum wage laws. But even so, farmers have difficulty in getting help. The housing shortage is largely responsible for this, perhaps, and the farmer who can offer a house to live in is more likely to be able to get workers.

In addition to the backlog due to lack of construction during the war, Great Britain has to replace the houses destroyed by bombing. The housing shortage is still acute even though, during the first two years after the war, a million and a half people were re-housed. In Lady Haworth's opinion, the system of building by local authorities and the allocating of houses by "points" ensures that those most in need secure houses first.

The government, she feels, has done a good job. The rationing of food and clothing and the controls on what crops farmers grow are necessary. Prices of essential foods to the consumer are kept down by subsidies. Though the diet is, of course, monotonous, the health of the people has not suffered, apparently. In a report recently issued, it is stated that the health of school children is at least as good as it was before the war. There are special rations for heavy workers and for children of certain ages.

Lady Haworth spoke, too, of the clothes rationing and pointed out that when everyone else is shabby, too, one doesn't mind it so much! The hardest part of the housewife to bear is the interminable darning and mending.

The boxes received from Canada are much appreciated not only for their contents but also as an expression of friendship and sympathy. Lady Haworth urged the Women's Institute members to keep in touch with British Institutes by correspondence. She assured the ladies that a warm welcome awaits any who find it possible to visit Great Britain.

Lady Haworth, in her talks, presented a picture of the difficulties which face the people of Great Britain to-day but she did so with such a good spirit, and with such wit, that there was never any suggestion of complaining.

Besides the District Annual Meetings, Lady Haworth spoke at two other meetings. At Dryden, she was guest speaker at the Rotary Club supper meeting on June 9th, where the large group of men listened with interest to her account of conditions in England to-day.

A well attended public meeting was held at Emo on the evening of June 14th, where Mr. Marr, Agricultural Representative, gave an instructive paper on Agriculture in North-western Ontario. Lady Haworth spoke on Agriculture in England and delighted the audience with several amusing stories. An enjoyable social time and the serving of refreshments rounded off the evening.

Except for the seventh of June, when it poured rain all day, fine weather prevailed for the whole trip, and added to the pleasure of the motoring and other activities. That wet day, a blazing log fire in the Inn at Kakabeka Falls made a cheerful setting for the tea at which the Kakabeka Falls ladies entertained.

Lady Haworth was much impressed by the equipment at the up-to-date Camp Robinson and interested in all the activities to be seen at this lumber camp. Mr. D. E. MacRae arranged and took us on this trip.

In all her travelling, Lady Haworth was constantly on the alert for signs of our wild life. She was delighted when she glimpsed some, but disappointed at failing to see any moose or bear in their natural surroundings. It was a bit disillusioning, too, that all the Indians she saw lacked war paint and feathers!

Before Lady Haworth left for home she wrote the message which appears elsewhere in this issue. From it, those who did not have the pleasure of meeting Lady Haworth will be able to catch something of the inspiration she brought those who were so privileged. And to the latter, her words will recall a most delightful and worthwhile experience.

(Irene H. McBride,
Women's Institute Branch and
Home Economics Service.)

REPORT OF MEETING FORMS

We wish to announce that this year only one Report of Meeting form will be sent out to Branch Institutes. This form has been completely revised. We would ask that very careful consideration be given to the filling out of this form by the Branch Institute.

Roseneath, Northumberland East: Following an interesting address on Newfoundland, the National Anthem of Newfoundland was sung.

CONVENTIONS 1948

Place	Date
Guelph	September 1, 2
Howland	September 8
Sault Ste. Marie	September 9, 10
Sudbury	September 23, 24
Rainy River	September 28, 29
Kirkland Lake	October 5, 6
Barrie	October 12, 13
Ottawa	October 19, 20
Hamilton	October 21, 22
London	October 26, 27, 28
Belleville	November 2, 3
Kingston	November 4, 5
Toronto	November 10, 11, 12

THE TWEEDSMUIR CUP COMPETITIONS

A most valuable and interesting project, begun last year, in the F.W.I.C. was the Tweedsmuir Competitions. The idea originated with The Lady Tweedsmuir, wife of the late Lord Tweedsmuir, Governor-General of Canada, who, in one of her frequent visits to Canadian Women's Institutes, suggested that the members might enjoy compiling "Village Books", as do the women of England and Scotland. The Institute women of Ontario entered into the project with enthusiasm, and last year, 1946, the idea was taken up by the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada. The books were to be called the Tweedsmuir Histories, as the subject might not necessarily be a Town or Village, but might be a settlement or community. To the competition of the Tweedsmuir Histories were added two other competitions—an essay and handwork.

The Lady Tweedsmuir suggested the type of these different competitions and, in order to arouse interest and enthusiasm, donated three very lovely cups, sterling silver, very plain in design, the only decoration being the Tweedsmuir crest; two similar in size and one slightly smaller, each mounted on a wooden base.

The following is a report of the Tweedsmuir Cup Competition Committee, consisting of Miss Anna Lewis, Ontario; Miss Mary Powers, Nova Scotia; and Mrs. Robt. Thompson, New Brunswick. The three silver cups donated by the Lady Tweedsmuir for competition by Women's Institute members (also members of Home-maker's Clubs) across Canada will be competed for during the 1947-49 Biennial term as follows:

A. Tweedsmuir Books — In Ontario these are called Tweedsmuir History Books. Instruction for compiling these will be found in "Home and Country" Fall, 1945.

B. Hooked Rug of Typical Canadian design—

To be judged for suitability of design and workmanship.

1. Material—rug to be made of used woollen material.

2. size—27" x 45"

3. Type—floor rug.

C. Essay—"Our Women's Institute takes a Forward Look."

To be written or typed on one side of paper only, size of sheet, 8½" x 11". Length of essay to be not more than 1,000 words. Judges for the Federal Competition will be chosen by the Policy Committee. Only two entries may be made in each class from each Province. These entries must have been approved by the respective Provincial officers.

The F.W.I.C. have voted a silver spoon to the runner-up in each class. No competitor who already has been awarded a Tweedsmuir Cup may compete in the same class in succeeding years.

Relative to the "Histories", the following is quoted from "Home and Country, Summer (1940): "The collecting of material and preserving historic records was a subject dear to the heart of our late beloved Governor-General Lord Tweedsmuir. In compiling these books we not only pay tribute to his memory and honour The Lady Tweedsmuir, but will preserve in our own community the records of integrity, honesty and industry of our pioneers. These achievements of construction may well be worthy of our deep consideration and thought in these days".

The Ontario prizes for the Tweedsmuir Cup Competitions will be awarded as follows: 1st, \$5.00; 2nd, \$3.00, and 3rd, \$2.00, to be given by the F.W.I.O. for each class. Watch for further announcement as to closing date of Competitions.

South Glenelg, Grey South: Is assisting with funds for the erection of a cairn in recognition of the work of Nellie McClung. The cairn will be erected on the farm in Grey County where the famous authoress was born.

A MESSAGE FROM LADY HAWORTH

Dear Institute Members:

I am very happy to have this opportunity of writing to you before I leave Canada, as I do want you all to know what a wonderful time I have had visiting some of your Branch meetings and District Annuals. I feel I have made many friends here and learned something about the activities of the Women's Institutes in Ontario. Now, I hope to go back to Britain and try to share the lovely experiences I have had with some of the members there.

I do want to thank everyone I have met for their wonderful kindness and hospitality. Life in Britain to-day is not always very easy but it is a true inspiration to us all to feel that we have the friendship and sympathy which you have so often shown us during the last difficult years.

I do feel, from the bottom of my heart, that the more we can exchange visits and get to know one another, the more our movement will be strengthened on both sides of the Atlantic. It has proved the most inspiring experience to have the chance of getting to know you and I do hope it may be possible for many of you to visit us in Britain in the near future. At present, we can not offer you very much in the way of luxury but I can assure you of a very warm and heartfelt welcome.

Good wishes to you all,

Yours sincerely,
Dorothy Haworth.

GIFTS FROM OVERSEAS

(Editor's Note: We reprint an excerpt taken from the May issue of the English Women's Institute "Home and Country".)

The Women's Institute College, which has seemed only a visionary ideal, is rapidly becoming sound fact and this is largely due to the enthusiastic generosity of Counties, Institutes and members who are offering such wonderful gifts towards the furnishing. This generosity is not even confined to our own country and exciting parcels have been arriving at the College from Canada. When Miss Lewis, of the Department of Agriculture, Ontario, visited the College last summer she was keenly interested and anxious to help. On returning to Canada, she told the Ontario Women's Institutes about our difficulty in obtaining sheets, and their magnificent response has been a flow of parcels containing sheets and pillowcases. This intimate interest and practical help from Institutes so far away is tremendously encouraging and makes us realize how closely linked we are.

Other exciting news from Mrs. Eversley, who also visited England last summer, is that her Institute in St. Kitts, British West Indies, wishes to subscribe to the Denman College Fund.

We are grateful for all this generosity and hope that the international spirit of the movement will be strengthened by visits to the College from these overseas members.

POSSIBILITIES OF THE GIRLS' HOME GARDEN CLUBS

(continued from page 6, col. 4.)

The second and third year gardeners are eligible to compete for the Canadian Countryman Award. For this the province is divided into eight regions, the highest girl in each region receives a week's short course at O.A.C. I was very happy to receive this award in 1944.

When the girls' interest grows it branches out to the flower gardens and lawns. Then at Zenda it branched out again to take in the church grounds. I was delegated to ask the officials for a lawn mower; we got it, induced the boys to trim up the trees and the girls mowed the lawn. Last year a flower bed was added and the girls painted the fence. This year the grounds are really nice.

I believe that is living up to our motto "For Home and Country".
(Contributed by Miss Laurene Foster, South Oxford District.)