

## A NEW PROJECT OF THE F. W. I. O

Midway down the long avenue of tents in Tent City at the International Ploughing Match, held near Lindsay, was a tent of special interest to members of the Women's Institute. For here was the tent of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario. After the long walk from the parking areas to this spot one felt the need for rest and relaxation. So our tent was appreciated by the many folk, both men and women, who entered.

It was especially pleasant to receive a smiling welcome from Mrs. Arthur Hamilton, Atwood and Mrs. C. Moynes, Oakwood directors on the Provincial Board and from Mrs. J. H. McCulloch, sec.-treas. F.W.I.O. Offering hospitality with cups of good, hot tea and small cakes were the district officers of Victoria West, Mrs. J. A. McEachern, Cambray, Mrs. John Wallace, Lindsay, R.R. 1, and several of their energetic members of the Women's Institutes of the District. These were truly busy days for these members, for several were extending hospitality in their homes and were helping their church associations serve meals, and yet they managed to assist in the Women's Institute tent as well.

But the refreshments and the opportunity to chat with friends were not the only attractions. For mounted on large sheets of bristol board were groups of pictures depicting Women's Institute activities. Some showed the different courses given under the direction of Women's Institute Branch and Home Economics Service. Then too there were pictures of the 50th Anniversary and other interesting events. For distribution, pamphlets on various subjects and an attractive blotter in Institute colours with one of the 50th Anniversary pictures on it, were laid out on tables.

Those who were not Institute members were especially welcomed and were told about our organization and many showed an interest in this information.

Each person coming into the tent was asked to register and by the close of the Ploughing Match many, many names had been written in the book. close by the register was a jar, where those who wished to help the Adelaide Hoodless Fund, could drop their coins. In this little jar forty dollars was collected for the fund.

I think we all agreed that the tent of the F.W.I.O. at the International Ploughing Match was a worthwhile project which should bring satisfaction to those who had so faithfully worked to make this project a success. Experience this year had taught those in charge where improvements might be made and they look forward to putting these in effect at future Ploughing Matches.

However, it seemed to me the most important thing about this Women's Institute tent was the pleasant, happy atmosphere created by the hostesses and their helpers and the presence of the true Women's Institute spirit so evident to all who entered.

(Contributed by Mrs. Hugh Summers)

## HERE AND THERE WITH THE INSTITUTES



Upper left: Mrs. R. C. DeForest of Redbridge, Parry Sound District, newly-elected area chairman and Mrs. Victoria Hills of Bourkes, chat with "The Institutes Farmer Husband" portrayed by Mrs. Manahan, Nipissing Junction. The poem "Attending the W.I." provided a lighter vein at the afternoon session in Sudbury. This poem will be sent on loan from the loan library on request.

Upper right: A few of the ladies who attended Grey County Rally, held in Ayton Community Hall. Grey Co., have held this annual "get together" for several years now. It serves a splendid place in drawing together Institutes in the county and unifying the work. Several other counties in the province are working on plans for the same type of "County Conference". Would you like to try it in your county?

Centre left: Miss Dorothy Weicker and Miss June Alto of New Hamburg, Waterloo Co., demonstrated salad making during the Girl's Hour at Guelph convention.

Centre right: Miss Margaret Brophy, CKNX, Wingham, interviews officers and special speakers at Grey Co. Rally.

Lower left: St. Jacobs "Hill Billies" brought hilarious laughter at Guelph convention area.

Lower right: A bus trip was arranged for Grey Co. Institute members to visit a modern large scale chicken ranch.

## WOMEN IN OUR SOCIETY TODAY

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advantage in the combined efforts of men and women bringing together different points of view both in the evaluation of a situation and on the part of the work given special stress. The problems of to-day are so complex that the efforts of all able people are needed to solve them.

Few of you will remember the struggles of the pioneers for "women's rights". Those early workers were determined to gain for women the privileges which they saw men enjoying—first the franchise, because without it they could not function fully as citizens in a democracy, and next, the right of women to control their own lives. They attained a good measure of success. And yet how often do we

hear the question, "What have women done with the vote?" There is a general feeling of disappointment in women as a political force. And this disappointment is greatest in those countries where women have had the best opportunities. The record of the women elected to public office in Canada has been excellent. But how pitifully meagre is the list of these! Surely it is high time that women made their voices heard in all political parties, as Charlotte Whitton suggests, so that within these, women would be fairly represented and presented as candidates for election at all levels of government.

The emphasis has been too long, on "women's rights". We need to stress now, women's responsibilities. After all, political and economic emancipation is merely the condition of freedom. If we want equality, then we must realize that this will be achieved

only when we play our fair share in the actual work of government. The "Freedom train" can't take us any place unless we board it! It is the attitude of other women, and their lack of support, more than the attitude of men, which seems to discourage those who are ready to launch out into the activity of politics.

On the world's stage, women are playing stellar and supporting roles in political dramas. When we consider these roles we begin to see the danger of thinking only of "woman" in the abstract, generalized sense. "Woman's role in society" really becomes "Women's roles in society". Women in Europe, the East, and South America are active as leaders and followers in different parties, striving for different goals. In Canada there is not the division among women that exists in India or Palestine, for example. We have the advantage that practically all

we Canadian women are agreed as to what we want for our children, our country and the world. It thus behooves us to engage in the task of attaining the goals on which we are agreed. We are failing in our duty if we do not play our part in our country's affairs.

Contributed by Irene H. McBride, Field Ass't in Family Relationships, Women's Institute Branch.

On Friday evening August 6th the Women's Institute Park in Demorestville was officially opened. This is the culmination of a project undertaken in 1928 when a neglected lot was purchased. The ground had to be levelled, trees planted and enclosed with a new fence. Now in 1948 a new generation enjoy the swings, slides, teeter-boards and sand-boxes in a beautiful park which is now a community centre.