

## DISTRICT ANNUAL GLEANINGS HELP WITH 1949 PLANNING

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** District officers all over the province are now planning for 1949 District Annuals. To help you with this planning we publish below the report of 1948 annuals as sent in by Board Directors throughout the province and compiled by Mrs. J. H. McCulloch, F.W.I.O., secretary-treasurer.

A spirit of friendly co-operation, of sincere purpose and faith in the Women's Institutes pervaded the 1948 district annuals. Women are alive to their place in making the world a better place in which to live. The most significant fact in the district annual reports was the attendance of young women and their active participation in the programs. "With such capable young women so keenly interested in the Women's Institutes its future is assured." Another note of inspiration and encouragement was the increased interest in Girls' Club work. Reports, exhibits and demonstrations of this work were a part of many district annual programs. "Their future outlook is wonderful because they have such good work among their Juniors," writes the Board Director of Middlesex North.

Reports show a general increase in attendance at district annuals. An increase in membership and many new Branches was another encouraging note. Corunna United Church was packed to capacity for the Lambton West district annual. Some ladies came 65 miles and others further to the Algoma East meeting. Sudbury has quite a number of families from Finland in that District. Many of the women of these families are Women's Institute members and attended district annual.

With a few exceptions the accommodation was good and the lunch arrangements excellent. The hall or church was attractively decorated with Spring flowers and in the W.I. colours of blue and gold. A friendly gesture, when each registered at Simcoe West, was the pinning of a flower on each lady. "This friendly spirit was in evidence all through the meeting." Generally speaking, officers and conveners were efficient and showed a deep sense of responsibility in their work. "We are going forward. Education in conduct of meetings is improving. Kindliness and co-operation mean so much," writes one Board Director. Where meetings opened on time and well planned, printed or mimeographed programs were formally, but friendly, carried through with dispatch, but not undue haste, an excellent spirit prevailed and much was accomplished. In a few instances, officers did not keep to parliamentary procedure and motions and discussions were a bit mixed up and slow. The general opinion, however, was that reporting by Branch Secretaries and Conveners had improved greatly during the past year and that District Conveners were compiling much more comprehensive reports. Even so, few Districts show 100% reporting by all Branches. In Welland the District Conveners for Historical Research and Social Welfare received reports from all 23 Branches. "These Conveners should be complimented as they sent a written reminder to those Branch Conveners who were slow and thus brought forth the desired result." This should not be necessary. If every Branch Convener would take seriously her responsibility and send her report to the District Convener in good time, what inspiring and informative reports could be given next year! In Perth North the Standing Committee reports were excellently compiled. Only outstanding features were dealt with and the suggestions made for the coming year were very practical. "It was a truly business meeting. All seemed anxious to learn as much as possible and showed great interest in every part of the program." At the Welland district annual the members took part in discussion after every report and one felt there was an intelligent interest taken in every phase of Institute

work. A few district annual reports showed programs over-crowded by too many outside speakers. The district annual should be the time for taking stock of the District's activities and achievements of the past year and planning for the coming year. "Inaction can be as deadly as wrong action." "Be able to take criticism give it without becoming personal", states one Board Director in her report. Cardinal Newman once said, "A man would do nothing if he waited until he could do it so well that no one would find fault with it." An Indian lady from the Garden River Women's Institute, a new branch, when asked if she liked the Algoma Centre district annual, answered "Good. Learn talking."

Music, as solos, school choruses and community singing, was a part of most district annual programs. Wellington Centre had a contest in six part singing in which three Branches competed. The adjudicator, in announcing his decision, gave reasons which were very educational. "This was an interesting feature of the entertainment part of the day's proceedings."

The citizenship report for Kent East District was outstanding. The oath of allegiance was recited by a member. Many Board Directors reported keen interest in Historical Research. There were exhibits of beautiful antiques and of Tweedsmuir History Books. Essex North District had on exhibit a 1891 edition of a newspaper. Ontario North had a baby's christening gown 100 years old. This District also had a parade of antique hats and the men in the audience judged them.

Health had a special place on the program in many Districts. Essex North pays the hospital dues of a member unable to do so. North and South Brant Districts maintain a two-bed ward in the T.B. Sanatorium. North and South Norfolk each elect a vice-president for the County T.B. Association. For 22 years their Institutes have distributed Christmas seals to finance the activities of this Association which include the monthly T.B. clinic, tests for school pupils, X-rays in mass surveys and clinics. These two Districts alternate in electing a director for a two-year term on the County Hospital Board. At the district annuals in Simcoe County there was general rejoicing. A County Health Unit was to be established in that county on July 1st. This had come largely through the petitions to County Council by W.I. members. North and South Norfolk had petitioned their Council several times for this service and resolutions were adopted at both district annuals. Their Board Director reports that the Council took steps the next week to establish such a Unit. The Women's Institutes in Lincoln sponsor child welfare clinics for their County Health Unit. Halton and Renfrew North Districts are also much interested in their Units.

On St. Joseph Island the Women's Institutes have been working for a safe crossing from the island to the mainland. A committee formed of one woman from each Island Women's Institute interviewed the four councils on the Island asking that they each petition the Department of Highways requesting one central crossing. Mrs. Hoodless set us the example of asking for what is needed when she asked for MacDonald Institute at Guelph. "The women are learning to do this in their own localities. Through our organization they are learning whom to contact, as was in evidence at the Alroma North Shore district annual when they asked for a projector for their School Area."

Time marches on bringing with it new opportunities for service. As has been said "Take as your motto: 'Go right on working'. The first letters of this motto spell 'Grow'."

Grow for usefulness, efficiency, unselfishness and co-operation.  
Grow for loyalty and patriotism.  
Grow for Home and Country.  
Grow for all that is honest and just."



**RAINY RIVER CONVENTION**  
Thunder Bay Women arrive at the Rainy River convention in the very early morning, happy and excited, ready for the big event.



Members of the Dorking Women's Institute in North Waterloo District sponsor a Rally.



Members of the South Brant District depict the historic part women of the County have played in the life of Canada. Adelaide Hoodless, whose inspiration led to the organization of Women's Institutes was a native of Brant County and a memorial at St. George honours her. Mrs. W. S. Brooks, Paris, is Mrs. Hoodless in the pageant. Mrs. H. Disher, Burford, is the director and narrator. The only man is Chief Little Bear, a Mohawk Indian of the Six Nations, who represents Thayendanegea, Chief Joseph Brant, after whom the county and city of Brantford are named. Princess Watching-Beside-The-Village, his wife, is also in the group. Others are Mrs. B. Bowler, Maple Grove, as Molly Brant, sister of Chief Brant; Mrs. B. Bonham, St. George as the mother of Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone; Mrs. G. Weir, Cathart, as Dr. Stowe, the first woman doctor in Canada; Mrs. J. S. Hughson, Burford, as Sara Duncan, an early co-organizer of the I.O.D.E.; Mrs. J. C. Hall Burford, as Clara Wilkes, the country's first woman missionary; E. Campbell, Burtch, as Nursing Sister M. Macdonald who gave her life in the first great war and L. Bowden, Burtch, as Nursing Sister D. Baldwin, who also served in the first great war.