

HOME AND COUNTRY

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

A trip West to Saskatoon and attendance at a Dominion Board meeting are now behind me. It was a very pleasant and interesting experience. Being a national meeting the burden wasn't mine and I was free to thoroughly enjoy all meetings. The highlight, of course, was the attendance of our international president, Mrs. Raymond Sayre, at many of the sessions. Her counsel and advice, freely given, was an inspiration and help to all. Then, of course, it was a privilege to meet with Mrs. MacMillan and to work under her direction. The majority of the provincial presidents were present. (Each Province sends two voting directors, as well as a counsellor.) Living in residence and working with them was an added privilege. At convention time I shall tell you the decisions made. Ontario was honoured by having Mrs. Hugh Summers elected first vice president of F.W.I.C., Mrs. J. E. Houck, elected citizenship convener and Mrs. Leo Challand, as pen friend secretary.

At both Winnipeg and Saskatoon I attended Provincial Conventions. The Manitoba Women's Institutes were meeting just prior to the Dominion Board meeting. I went West in time to have two days with them in residence at the University of Manitoba, just on the outskirts of Winnipeg. I shall tell you something about this in my Convention report. It was a very pleasant and happy experience. The Homemakers of Saskatchewan were



OFFICERS' CONFERENCE 1949—GROUP IN FRONT OF DINING HALL

meeting at the same time as the Board. we were able to "sit in" on some of their sessions and live with them in the University Dormitories.

The trip to Saskatoon was altogether delightful. Mrs. Sayre told us that every contact we make changes us—I must be a very changed person by these many pleasant contacts. I was certainly impressed by what I saw and heard.

Ontario must bring Mrs. Sayre. She has visited many of the Provinces. I asked her about her time and found out that her free time is the month of March. You will know the demands upon her are stupendous. I am wondering if we couldn't have a rally in each convention area for a day or an afternoon and give all our members a chance to hear and see Mrs. Sayre. Her words are so true, her thoughts so simply put, her personality so outstanding, her message would be an inspiration to us all.

You have received notices from Miss Lewis, regarding an essay or story "The Country Woman's Day". Could you not write an interesting account of your day—with its humour, its pathos, its tasks, its dozens of interruptions in a busy routine? A.C.W.W. hope to compile a book from the essays from various countries. Then we shall know what a country woman's day is like all over the world.

And now, before I close, a few "thank you's". Thank you for your co-operation and your participation in our two new projects—The Provincial Officers' Conference, and the Summer Holiday. Your interest made each a great success.

Thank you, on behalf of our organization for your continued support of our Scholarship Fund for Rural Girls in Home-making Clubs. Many of them, I hope, will have the privilege and pleasure of attending short courses, because of your generosity.

Thank you for purchasing extra copies of Fifty Years of Achievement. After reading this account of our progress and work you will want this record for your own bookshelf.

And lastly, thank you all, for your support, interest and effort for F.W.I.O. Because of you, our organization will continue to grow and to serve Home and Country.

(Mrs. J. R. Fletcher, F.W.I.O. Pres.)

THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

I is for the Institute, that has a world wide fame,
N is for the notes we get to help us round our home,
S is for the suppers once a month we plan ahead,
T is for the time we gain, by recipes, we read,
I is for the information to keep our husbands sweet,
T is for the tasty dishes to cool them from the heat,
U is for the universe that needs a woman's hand,
T is for the touch that helps us rule the land,
E is for everyone who makes the best of things,
Put them all together they spell INSTITUTE a work that means the world to you.

(Composed by Mrs. R. Freeman, Grey Co.)

OFFICERS' CONFERENCE

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 4).

ector should each be allowed at least thirty minutes. 9. County conferences, winter picnics or district rallies are the trend of the times. Our Institute women enjoy meeting together often. Especially with the redivision of districts, fellowship of this county meeting draws our organization more closely together. 10. It is advisable to allow at least twenty minutes for the departmental speaker and board director to answer questions from the floor or question box. 11. The district executive should meet two or three times a year, instead of once.

Branch Officers

The Branch Officers' discussions brought forward many worthwhile findings. These included:

1. Exchange of programmes give new ideas (Branch programmes may be borrowed from the Loan Library Women's Institute Branch and Home Economics Service). 2. Good times are essential. These include bus trips, picnics (including winter picnics), family nights, concerts, euchres, dances, as well as fun and games at regular meetings. 3. Sponsor worthwhile community activities such as music festivals, drama festivals, public speaking competitions and Junior Farmer and Junior Home-making Club projects. 4. Plan programmes for the full year. It was recommended that each standing committee was of sufficient importance to warrant one meeting at least each year and short reports of the standing committees might be given each month. 5. The executive should condense the business to come before the meeting in order to facilitate proceedings and leave plenty of time for the programme. 6. Some districts plan programmes for all Institutes in the district to use but the majority are planned in the local branch. 7. Some districts print the programmes of each branch in a booklet so that all Institutes within the district know the meeting dates and programme features of all neighbouring branches. This facilitates visiting of branches and interchange of ideas. 8. The importance of making our programmes of interest and value to the young mother was brought out. Evening groups were the answer in some cases. In others special meetings are held for young mothers. In several Institutes mothers are encouraged to bring their children to the meeting where someone will look after them while the mothers are free to enjoy the meeting.

Interesting Visitor

Miss Mary L. Collings, Senior Home

Economist, Department of Extension,

Washington, D.C. described the work

of her department which is similar to

the Women's Institute Branch in Can-

ada. In order to keep in contact with

rural women Miss Collings goes into

their homes and asks questions per-

taining to their work and interests.

She stated, "Only recently have agri-

culturalists recognized the importance

of the various phases of homemaking

education in her country.

"Each child learns about the res-

ponsibilities of life around the kitchen

and dining-room table; and these

children must be the ones to settle

the world problems of tomorrow.

"We have many problems in common. If interested in planning for new members plan programmes to interest women who are not organization minded. Try to find out the things that non-members are interested in and what can be useful to the homemaker. Try to avoid repetition in programmes. Your Women's Institute has never hesitated to undertake public problems. I will pass back some of the ideas I have received through my visit with you."

Colonel the Honourable T. L. Kennedy, Minister of Agriculture, was guest speaker of the evening.

Drawing a parallel between the development of Ontario's uncultivated acres in the north and the accomplishments of tasks undertaken in W.I. work, Col. Kennedy said, "Miracles happen every day, don't let us stop when other people say a job is impossible.

"Sometimes I think we people in Ontario are a little bit selfish. We're not always willing to help other provinces and other people less fortunate than ourselves".

"Church-going, peace-loving and law-abiding" were the adjectives applied by Col. Kennedy to "we people who live in rural Ontario" but he emphasized the need for going outside the home with help and encouragement, particularly in an attempt to alleviate juvenile delinquency.

"These young delinquents were born good babies", he said. "It was because of their parents' neglect and the lack of help from their neighbours that they fell into law-breaking ways".

On the second day Miss F. P. Eadie spoke on "Recent Trends in the Junior Field". She stated, "The Seniors are most important in the planning for the Junior Programme. The purpose of Junior work is to afford an opportunity for further education of rural young people. The Junior Homemakers are just completing a most successful year and from 1,700 to 1,800 gardeners are beginning their garden projects. Members of the Women's Institute have assisted greatly in the past and now we have the Scholarship Fund. I want you to share the pride of our fourteen years of achievement.

"Interest in Homemaking Clubs is at an all time high but we require more leaders. We are looking forward to reaching out and interesting more girls in taking our courses. Ease of transportation has helped during the past ten years.

"Young people like a good time but they are learning to take responsibility and they are developing leadership. They are deciding the job to do and are doing it. The girl's own progress and growth is the thing that really counts. Young people realize that they are living in a very small world and that they will have to do their part in untangling world problems. Homemaking Club programmes assist in their development."

Mr. W. D. Tolton, Director of Public Relations, O.A.C., expressed his pride in the Women's Institute. "Here," he said, "We have an organization with determination, yet a smooth running organization, one great big family, a leader of democracy. You lay down a policy and carry it out; you know

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