

CITIZENSHIP

EDITOR'S NOTE: The paper printed below was prepared by Mrs. Harry Smith, Decew Falls Women's Institutes. Our members will be especially interested in this paper because Mrs. Smith was born in Russia and is now an active Ontario Institute member. She has given us a real challenge and food for thought.

To-day I am going to speak to you about Citizenship. Perhaps the best way to illustrate what Canadian citizenship signifies to all of us, and to me in particular, is to compare the country of my origin and the country of my adoption.

I was born in Russia. We lived, as far as I can remember, in Dnepropetrovsk, a busy, industrial city in the southern part of Ukraine, better known as the bread basket of Europe. Its soil is black, rich and productive. The people are hospitable, kind and hardy, although life has ever been harsh to them. Heavy taxation left only a bare existence. Peasant children were denied even elementary schooling. Freedom of movement or of speech were unheard of. When travelling from one town to another you were liable to be stopped and asked for your passport. In case of inability to produce necessary identification papers, you were sent back under guard and a heavy fine was imposed. Theatres were barred to peasants unless they discarded their peasant garb, which of course they could not do even if they wanted to.

An amusing tale is told about a great Russian writer, Count Leo Tolstoy, who was refused admittance to a theatre because he wore peasant clothes and was not recognized.

Medical aid was inadequate. A population of five thousand was allowed only one drug store; no hospital; one doctor, generally unqualified. Sanitation was at its lowest possible level. No wonder that epidemics struck with such ferocity and so often!

Canada - Freedom

One can easily understand how happily we bade farewell to that beautiful but misruled land and turned our eyes to this glorious land of freedom!—Freedom which is taken so lightly and casually by all in this country! A country which is a land of opportunity for all, regardless of race, color or religion—where a man is his own master. Education is not only available to everybody but is compulsory. It is not uncommon to hear that a fellow has worked his way through college, whether his father is an aristocrat or a lowly labourer. Hospitals are open to rich and poor alike. Just think, how ridiculous it would be to need a passport to go to Hamilton. I get impatient with people who criticize our present way of life, and government, then when elections come around they stay at home and "let George do it." Thus a great privilege is abused. A privilege for which men have fought and died.

Citizenship - Co-operation

We Canadians are constantly becoming more keenly aware of the need for true citizenship which can only come through co-operation of the home, church and school.

Living under a democracy is an experience we do not want our children to miss. It's something to grow up in a country free from master and servant classes. So is being able to go to high school with the gang and so are such things as debating teams which were forbidden in Russia as they might bring out free ideas. Of course, being able to see good citizenship under a true democracy means that we'll have to do some ourselves.

However small one's civic share, it will take more time and thought than getting the political news through radio and newspapers.

How Homemakers Help

How can you help Canada in your raising of good citizens without too much stretching of the hours your household requires of you?

First of all make your home a unit. See to it that your family understands the simple faith. God created all men equal. Next, try making the ten commandments living rules for your household and not just words to



F.W.I.O. QUILT

The quilt shown above was made by Malton Women's Institute for the F.W.I.O. It was displayed at Guelph in May, at the C.N.E. in Sept. and may be sent to the next A.C.W.W. conference as an example of Ontario Women's Institute Homecrafts. Note the F.W.I.O. Crest, the Ontario trilliums and maple leaves.

be memorized in Sunday school and church. The woman who so equips her family will find her enthusiasm for community betterment growing.

Where can she start? Education. More and better education is one answer. She will find herself working towards better schools, higher pay for teachers and she will understand that at least a high school diploma is a must for this atomic age.

The woman who acquires a sincere interest in community welfare will become acquainted with county and province needs and the woman interested in national affairs is the type urgently needed in this country now.

It is agreed that woman's natural place is in the home, but the times demand that she do her housecleaning on a world-wide scale—the sooner the better for this. We women of Canada should take a stand. We must realize that hope for world peace lies in justice and equality for all. We must promote the solid foundations for peace and security in our own community. We must free the world from the threat of future wars. And for these ends we will be good neighbours. We will perform some personal service for the community. We will combine our strength with others working for the improvement of community living.

In conclusion I would like to add, please try to understand the strangers that come to seek haven at our shores. Their ways and customs may seem strange to you, but don't forget that you appear to them, also strange.

"May we never be hasty in judgment and always generous and, O Lord God let us not forget to be kind."

Regulations Governing Parcels of Clothing Being Sent to the National Federation of Women's Institutes

In the past whenever parcels of clothing have been sent to the National Federation of Women's Institutes, coupons had to be surrendered before the members could receive the clothing.

The Government has now agreed that any parcels of clothing, addressed to the National Federation, 39 Eccleston St., London S.W.1, can be distributed to those in need without any coupons having to be given up.

We are sure you will welcome this news.

ONTARIO RESULTS TWEEDSMUIR CUP COMPETITIONS

The results of the Ontario Tweedsmuir Cup Competitions were announced as follows:

Tweedsmuir Histories
 First Prize—St. George Women's Institute—Brant North District.
 Second Prize—Russell Village Women's Institute—Russell District.

Rugs
 First Prize—Lakeview Women's Institute—Elgin East District.
 Second Prize—Dorking Women's Institute—Waterloo North District.

Essays
 First Prize—Delhi Women's Institute—Norfolk North District. Mrs. Berton Axford, Delhi.
 Second Prize—Innisville Women's Institute—Lanark South District. Mrs. W. H. McCreary, Carleton Place.

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD ESSAY CONTEST

The Country Woman's Day

A resolution was passed at Amsterdam agreeing that each Society should run an essay competition throughout its membership based on the subject of "The Country Woman's Day".

The following suggestions have been received from Associated Country Women of the World headquarters:

"Simply describe a typical day in your life—if any day is ever typical. What you do from the time the first rooster crows until you crawl into bed at night may seem humdrum and uninteresting to you, but very likely not to the judges or to other country women who live a thousand miles or a hemisphere away.

"Somewhere in the account of your day, we would like you to tell us something about the farm, ranch, cottage or house, about your duties out-of-doors as well as in the house, about your family, and maybe about others who make your days bright or dull. You need not be wordy, but small, intimate details may help bring your day into colourful form. For example, what do you think about and plan as you go through the uninspiring tasks of washing dishes, mending the children's clothes and gathering eggs?"

"We'd like to hear about the high points in your day, and the low spots as well. Are your chores like 'woman's work'—'never done'? Do you manage a nap or a bit of rest in the afternoon? Do you budget your time or rely on a good sense of management to save you from being overwhelmed by a wave of unforseen details? Yes, tell us about your work, but tell us about your leisure too—how much of it you can expect and how you spend it. Some of you may have a great deal of leisure, others may not be so fortunate. In some countries, indeed, National holidays have been established to relieve the house wife.

"The main thing is—be yourself, and put your day on paper.

"The account of your day may be as long or as short as comes naturally, but we warn you that we do not think the judges will look favourably on long-winded pieces of more than 1,000 words. Your entry may be submitted in pencil, ink, or it may be type-written. Ink, however, makes easier reading, and so does double spacing if you type, and please write on one side of the paper only. It goes without saying that you must compose the piece yourself."

All entries for the competition must reach Miss Anna P. Lewis, Director, Women's Institute Branch and Home Economics Service, 1207 Bay Street, Toronto 5, NOT LATER THAN OCTOBER 15, 1949.

These essays will be judged with the assistance of the Ontario Agricultural College English Department. The winning essays will be sent on to compete in the A.C.W.W. Competition. It is expected that a book will later be published by the A.C.W.W. with essays from various countries.

The Ontario Competition is open to any Women's Institute member in Ontario. The full name and address of the competitor must be attached to each entry along with a certified statement, signed by the Branch secretary, assuring us that the competitor is a member of that particular Branch of the Women's Institutes of Ontario.

Essays become the property of the F.W.I.O. and cannot be returned.

TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE A.C.W.W. 1950

The Danish constituent societies have invited the Associated Country Women of the World to hold its 1950 Triennial Conference in Copenhagen the week of September 10, 1950. It is our sincere hope that many Ontario women will plan to be in attendance at this Conference.



NORTH OXFORD GROUP VISIT TORONTO

Mrs. Orwell Smith, Dist. Pres. in charge with Mrs. Gilbert Ross, Embro; Mrs. Gordon Sandock, Ingersoll and Mrs. Edmund Hansuld, Tavistock, assist. Highlight of tour was attendance at Ontario Legislature in session. With the group are pictured, centre front, T. R. Dent, member for Oxford, Miss Anna Lewis, Director, and Premier T. L. Kennedy.