

## 1949 CONVENTIONS - INSPIRING - INFORMATIVE - ENRICHING

Over 5,300 Women's Institute members and friends from all parts of the Province of Ontario shared in the enriching experience afforded through Fall Conventions, 1949.

Because of the vast extent of our Province and our large membership rather than one provincial convention 13 area conventions are held in Ontario.

Heartily congratulations go to the convention committees who through much thought and detailed planning contribute greatly to these splendid meetings. Members and visitors alike return to their homes with fresh enthusiasm, new ideas and a will to give unselfishly of their very best FOR HOME AND COUNTRY.

"Democracy Begins With You" was a good suggestion for our next Tweedsmuir Essay. Judging from the spirit dominant throughout our fall meetings "Democracy Begins With You" could be termed "The Challenge of Conventions 1949". Our women have a deep sense of responsibility. They realize that democracy depends upon the intelligent action of each individual. Through participation in discussion, reports, addresses,—in every convention activity our women showed their readiness to take their part as intelligent, well informed, understanding citizens.

We wonder, now, how effectively we have accepted our challenge since convention time. And how much of the enthusiasm, inspiration and knowledge gained by those thousands present has permeated through to not only our 47,000 members but also the vast multitude of individuals who come within our sphere of influence.

What a challenge! What an opportunity!

A very brief report is given of the 13 area conventions in the following columns. We could not begin to give you all the highlights—it would fill volumes!

Convention area reports of standing committees, copies of convention programmes and lists of roll calls and mottoes are available from our Loan Library. You will find them useful for programme planning and full of ideas and suggestions which you might adapt to your own Institute work.

### GUELPH AREA MEET AT O.A.C.

(13 Districts—196 Institutes  
—Attendance 400)

With Mrs. Chas. Robertson as chairman over 400 women assembled to take part in a very busy and interesting 2 day convention following the theme "Happiness is not an end to be attained but is something we create within ourselves".

Space permits us to highlight only 1 speaker. Dr. E. T. Salmon, McMaster University, gave much food for thought in his talk on "Developments in International Affairs".

"In times of peace," said Dr. Salmon, "people are interested in their own affairs until war looms. Recent international developments have been, on the political side, the signing of the Atlantic Pact, the council of Europe treaty signed at Strausburg, the quarrel between Tito and Stalin, the delay to signing the peace treaty with Austria, the weakening of Britain's political ties with Ireland, India and South Africa. Other developments have been the dollar crisis, recession of business conditions in the United States, growing unemployment in Berlin and the trade unions trying to purge themselves of communist elements. With modern communications making the world so small, it is inevitable that these events have repercussions in other parts of the globe."

About the future possibility of peace, the speaker thought there was no immediate threat of a third world war. Lack of steel in Russia was one reason and the temperament of the English speaking peoples is not such that they would start war. Communism thrives on human misery.



**Upper left: MANITOULIN CHANGES FROM CONVENTION TO CONFERENCE** Manitoulin delegates will now join with those from Algoma and Sudbury to form a new larger area. The Manitoulin meeting will still be held but in the form of a conference. Manitoulin officers left to right: Miss Benna Fuller, Silver Water, chairman; Mrs. Darrel Hazzard, Silver Water, secretary-treasurer and F.W.I.O. Board Director; Miss Lilly Petty, Home Economist for the District; Mrs. Wm. Row, Ice Lake, President, West Manitoulin District; Mrs. W. J. Cooper, Minnemoia, President, East Manitoulin District.

**Upper right: NIPISSING, PARRY SOUND AND MUSKOKA MEET AT POWASSAN.** Left to right: Mrs. J. R. Fitcher, St. Thomas, F.W.I.O. President; Mrs. V. Jobbins, Port Carling, area secretary-treasurer; Mrs. R. C. De Forest, Redbridge, area chairman; Mrs. R. Butler, Port Carling, vice-chairman; Mrs. H. Alkins, Callander, F.W.I.O. Board Director.

**Centre left: SOWERBY AND PRINCESS ELIZABETH INSTITUTES ACT AS CO-HOSTESSES FOR ALGOMA, SUDBURY AND MANITOULIN DISTRICTS.**

**Centre right: COCHRANE AND TIMISKAMING DISTRICTS MEET IN SPACIOUS LEGION HALL, TIMMINS.**  
**Lower left and right: AN OLD-TIME FASHION SHOW WAS ONE OF MANY HIGHLIGHTS AT BELLEVILLE AREA.**

This must be stamped out by improving conditions and arranging international affairs so that there will be justice for all.

The following resolution, presented at Guelph was sustained by the F.W.-I.O. Board, "Be it resolved that we, the members of the F.W.I.O. and F.W.I.C. take whatever steps may be necessary to influence our Representatives in the Dominion parliament, that in choosing a Canadian national flag that the Union Jack be given a prominent place on that flag".

**LAKEHEAD**  
(5 Districts—58 Institutes  
—Attendance 140)

The Lakehead convention, held one day in Fort William and one day in Port Arthur, carried out the theme "Developing a More Abundant Life in Our Rural Communities and a Deeper Appreciation of the Things Near at Hand".

Startling statistics were revealed by Mr. G. A. Noble, Inspector of Schools when he challenged the women on lack of attendance at school meetings. "Only 213 of 1000 people come to administer \$50,000", said Mr. Noble. He also added that the greater the interest taken by women the more interest there will be in education. He would like to see the day when women could be in control for at least one day. "They are good house cleaners!" he said.

Also carrying out the theme of the convention Dr. G. E. Moodie, Medical Health Officer spoke on health units, a project which Women's Institutes are working on in the North Western section of Ontario.

Mrs. J. H. Booth, area chairman, warmly welcomed not only our own Provincial President and Director but also Miss Frances McKay Director of

Women's Work for Manitoba.

Several resolutions of importance were passed at the convention:

WHEREAS the Jaffray Branch of the W.I. assembled at their monthly meeting in the Town of Kenora, Ontario, June 3rd, 1949, have considered the problem of the wife and mother where a husband has been sentenced to a term of imprisonment by an Ontario Court and

WHEREAS needless hardship and suffering is visited on the said mother and her children thereby.

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario be acquainted with the nature of that problem and that the necessary legislation be enacted to correct it by permitting said mother to be eligible for Mother's Allowance.

WHEREAS we want every rural child to have as equally modern edu-