

educational facilities as the city child; WHEREAS we feel that the rural women on the whole do not understand the system of school grants or the business administration of the school board well enough;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That Women's Institute members pledge themselves to strive for better school facilities for their children by studying the system of school grants carefully and thoroughly and being behind any plans for the betterment of any school or erection of new schools when needed in any section. In this way the Women's Institute will give leadership in their community.

WHEREAS the Rideout Branch of the W.I. assembled at their monthly meeting in the Town of Kenora, Ontario on May 24th, 1949, have considered the problem of the widowed mother who is raising her children on the Mother's Allowance; and

WHEREAS the Mother's Allowance ceases when her youngest child reaches the age of sixteen years; and

WHEREAS said mother's state of health, age, and lack of special training often prevents her being able to find suitable employment

**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 provide some form of pension for said widowed mothers.

**MRS. J. R. FUTCHER DESCRIBES HER TRIP TO THE LAKEHEAD.**

"The Convention at the Lakehead was the second convention this year, following Guelph.

"Once more I had that delightful and scenic trip along the north shore of Lake Superior that I told about in last fall's Home and Country. I was happy to at last get off the train at the twin cities of Fort William and Port Arthur. I had been through these cities several times but always in the middle of the night.

"When I looked out of my hotel window early in the morning the Sleeping Giant, just emerging in the sunlight from the morning mist, was fascinating. I had often heard of this rock formation out in the harbour and it truly does resemble a huge giant,

**THUNDER BAY, RAINY RIVER AND KENORA DISTRICTS MEET IN CONVENTION AT FORT WILLIAM AND PORT ARTHUR**



Above are shown officials from these districts along with Mrs. Futcher and Miss Lewis

lying on his back with his arms folded across his chest, protecting the mainland, as the Indian myth goes.

On the afternoon prior to the convention, a special treat had been planned for Miss Lewis and myself. We were driven out to Kakabeka Falls where there is a good-sized power plant, supplying power to this part of the province. The Falls are very beautiful, higher than Niagara, with water cascading from one rocky ledge to the next. Here we met the members of the Kakabeka Institute and enjoyed a very pleasant afternoon and a cup of tea with them. Kakabeka Falls is on the Kaministiquia River. (Aren't these names delightfully musical? When the roll call was read at these conventions I could hardly keep from asking the secretary to read them over again—so many of the names were a delight to the ear. The citizens are to be congratulated that they realize this, and showed the good sense of retaining these delightful, musical Indian names.)

"We made time for a visit to Mount McKay which towers like a sentinel on guard behind the cities. We drove about half way up it to a platform where the view is absolutely superb—the cities sprawling at your feet, huge grain elevators outlined against the sky, deep blue waterways and beyond in the bay the Sleeping Giant. It was hard to pull one's self away from such magnificence. Here nature has truly been lavish. We spent the first day of the convention in Fort William and the second day in Port Arthur. We were welcomed in a very friendly and genuine way by the mayors of each city, both of whom testified to the worth and value of Women's Institutes to their community. The reports were all excellent—so much so—that the convention voted to have them mimeographed and sent to each branch Institute in the area.

"These Institutes are very active in the Lakehead Fair. They have pledged themselves in this area, to the raising of \$3,000.00 for our new scholarship plan for girls in Junior Institutes and Homemaking Clubs.

"At Fort William we were shown through a new, modern, public school. I wouldn't have believed such a school a possibility if I hadn't seen it for myself. It is designed and decorated for beauty as well as service and is the last word in planning and equipment."

**BARRIE**

(5 Districts—83 Institutes—Attendance 416)

Simcoe Co. is unique not only in holding a convention for the one county but also it operates its own Women's Institute museum which is open during the summer months and contains valuable relics of the past.

Following the theme "Community Activities and Public Relations" Mrs. A. McKay, area chairman introduced as guest speaker Mr. W. D. Tolton, Director of Public Relations, O.A.C. Quoting Chas. Edison "If civilization is to survive we must speed up our social sciences so that the products of

the physical sciences will be used constructively instead of destructively", Mr. Tolton developed the thought that Public Relations belongs in the realm of social science. Social science is the product of human engineering. The human engineer must have personality and charm, backed by motive and actions that are directed toward a common good.

The individual must recognize and assume his share of responsibility for group action, the strength of which is commensurate with the interest of its members. The finished product of the science of human engineering is Public Relations.

To develop enduring strength four characteristics must be encouraged,—self-discipline, courage, imagination and timeliness. "These four cardinal characteristics rest on a twelve point basis, said the speaker,—alertness, energy, planning, research, judgement, humility, sacrifice, faith, sincerity, service, honesty, understanding. It is the privilege and opportunity of the Public Relations endeavour to encourage the development of each of these self-explanatory characteristics. In carrying out the motto of your Women's Institute 'For Home and Country' each one of you is a potential Public Relations officer, charged with the development of your Women's Institute.

"When you return to your homes will you not look about you and see what can be done to develop your communities. Our democratic way of life furnished us with the privilege of serving our communities. Local needs may merit your attention, e.g., lighting of sports centres for your boys and girls throughout the fall and winter nights and development of entertainment to supplant the beer parlor menace; development of debating and acting or pursuit of hobbies or shows. Such questions as the educational facilities of your community, the conservation of natural resources and the application of modern science in your community would no doubt be of great interest and value.

"Best things are hardest to get but are worth waiting and working for."

Further developing the theme "Community Activities" Mrs. Jean Good of the Toronto Welfare Council urged that more attention be given to our old folk in the community. She recommended that people in their old age should be as near as possible to the place where they had spent their lives. The biggest problem in old age is not income or housing but loneliness.

"There are two features very new in this age. One is the atomic bomb and the other", Mrs. Good said, "is great-grand parents. More people are living a long time, therefore there is a higher and higher percentage of old people in our population. According to statistics by 1971 there will be as many old people in the population as there will be working people.

"An understanding superintendent is one of the most important requirements of a home for the aged. Loca-

tion is also important and good food is a necessity. Other desirable features are separate rooms, a trained nurse, beautiful decorations, freedom to come and go, comfortable beds, recreation and entertainment, accommodation for married couples and transportation facilities."

Mrs. Good urged that the Women's Institute act as a welfare organization in finding out what old people needed. The following resolutions sent in from Barrie were sustained by the F.W.I.O. Board:

WHEREAS there is a need for more cancer clinics in Ontario.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Minister of Health, Hon. Russell Kelly be requested to set up other clinics as soon as possible.

WHEREAS feed and flour bags are hard to bleach and are often wasted after their first use is ended

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That flour and poultry feed companies be requested to consider the possibility of using pattern printed bags such as are used in the United States as these would be more useful to the farm housewives.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED:** That Women's Institute members will wherever possible patronize those companies which comply with this request.

WHEREAS it is evident that obscene reading matter is on sale at most book and paper stores and in some drug stores and these obscene books are being bought and read by youthful readers

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Women's Institute request the Attorney-General to place a ban upon such books and also to have stricter censorship placed upon all reading matter imported from the United States.

**MANITOULIN**

(2 Districts—21 Institutes—Attendance 160)

This year Manitoulin for the first time joined with Algoma and Sudbury to form a larger convention area but it voted to continue holding a meeting during the convention season. It will now be called "The Manitoulin Conference"

Mrs. R. J. Purcell, regional vice-president, F.W.I.O. who represented Mrs. Futcher at Manitoulin has sent in the following:

**KINGSTON CONVENTION OFFICERS**



Front row left to right: Mrs. Arthur Hudson, Lynn, F.W.I.O. Vice-President; Mrs. R. J. Penney, R.R. 1, Kingston area chairman; Mrs. J. R. Futcher, St. Thomas, F.W.I.O. President; Mrs. E. E. Morton, Vegreville, Alta., F.W.I.C. President; Mrs. R. M. Roblin, Bath, area secretary-treasurer. Back row left to right: Mrs. R. S. Shields, Brockville, Mrs. D. J. Hughson, Chaffey's Locks; Mrs. Jas. Haggerty, Nanapanee, area Vice-chairman; Mrs. J. E. Howes, Parham (President Frontenac District); Mrs. D. Hanna, Enterprise (President Addington District).

**COUNTY COUNCIL PRESENT SIMCOE COUNTY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE MUSEUM WITH FIRST JUDGE'S CHAIR**



The Honourable E. C. Drury presented, on behalf of the County Council the gift used by Judge (later Sir) James Gowan, who was County Court judge from 1842 to 1882. Left to right: Mrs. R. Boyes, Lefroy, who accepted the gift on behalf of Simcoe County Women's Institute Museum; Mrs. A. McKay, Orillia, area chairman; Mrs. Sanford Aikens, Creemore, area and F.W.I.O. convener of Historical Research; Mrs. N. Hand, museum convener; The Honourable E. C. Drury.