



FOUR HUNDRED WOMEN FROM BRUCE, GREY, HALTON, HURON, PERTH, WATERLOO AND WELLINGTON COUNTIES MEET IN CONVENTION AT THE O.A.C. GUELPH

Officers are (front row) left to right: Mrs. Arthur Hamilton, Atwood, F.W.I.O. Vice-President; Mrs. Milton Weber, West Montrose, F.W.I.O. Board Director; Mrs. Ford Sudden, Galt, 2nd Vice-Chairman; Mrs. J. White, Ripley, 1st Vice-Chairman; Mrs. C. R. Robertson, Rockwood, area chairman; Mrs. J. R. Futcher, F.W.I.O. President; Mrs. Loren Guild, area secretary; Miss Anna P. Lewis, Director; Mrs. J. Feasby, Kitchener.

#### MY FIRST TRIP TO THE MANITOULIN

Our Provincial President, Mrs. J. R. Futcher, has the responsibility of attending all area conventions and appointing a substitute. This year, she found herself unable to make the trip to the Manitoulin and Sowerby conventions and I had the good fortune to be appointed to go in her place, a trip I shall long remember and a highlight in my life.

I left home (Fort William) early Saturday morning, October 1, travelling by train to Sudbury. At Sudbury, I was met on Sunday noon by Miss Lewis with her car and the week was spent in her company with Miss Mae Clendenan, woman's editor of the Farmer's Advocate. At Sudbury we observed that the smelting operations had killed off all tree and bush growth close to the city and the surrounding hills present a bald and bare appearance. The whole city is built on a rock surface but I noticed that many of the residents had cultivated their yards, perhaps transplanting some soil, and had lovely lawns and many good backyard gardens—(There is no better solace in time of trouble, or development for our souls, than the work of putting in a garden and seeing nature respond to a little love and care).

On Sunday the trip was made to Gore Bay on Manitoulin Island, the place which served as headquarters for the next two days. As you all know, Miss Lewis is an enthusiastic photographer and many stops were made all week at scenes of beauty or of interest. The season of the year was best for picture time, with the maple trees in all their glory of colour; the oak, with their darker more bronze shades and the sumach showing a blaze of red all along the roadway. The change in the colouring could be noted as soon as we crossed the bridge from the mainland and I don't think anywhere else in the world could you find such a magnificent blaze of colour. The road winded and twisted upon itself and always a new point of beauty facing you as you rounded the turn.

Along the way we stopped at a Rock Museum at Worthington, where we met the owner, Mr. S. S. Herrman. He is a man with a wealth of experience in the development of the minerals of this country having prospected all over from the early nineteen hundreds and able to tell stories of all his minerals displayed.

All over the Island, we found a great deal of native rock used in the construction of their buildings and memorials. We passed through Birch River, where a monument of native

rock has been erected by the Department of Highways, Ontario, in 1946, in memory of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, 32nd President of The United States of America, who during his vacation in Canada immediately prior to the historic Quebec Conference fished the surrounding waters, August 1 to August 8, 1946. Here Miss Lewis took pictures of the school and the Indian children of the school and I lost the heel off my shoe.

We reached Gore Bay about 8 p.m. and were glad to eat and retire. The next morning we met Miss Petty, home economist Women's Institute Branch for Northern Ontario and an old friend of the Lakehead. Miss Petty travelled with us for the rest of the week and it rounded out a congenial and friendly group. That day, Monday, Mr. Cotton, Agricultural Representative for the Island, was our guide and drove us to all the points of interest and beauty. It was a day long to be remembered. We saw the quarry of the Canadian Silica Corp. Ltd., where the silica is blasted, crushed, washed and loaded on boats to be used in the steel plants in the U.S.A. as a flux for the hardening of the metal.

We saw the power house at Kaganlong which supplies power for the Island; stopped in the village of Manitowaning, the first settled district of the Island; and met and visited with Mr. C. R. Johnston, Indian Agent for that part. There, also, we saw the St. Paul's Anglican Church, 104 years old. At Mindemoya, where we ate dinner at night and made the last call of the day, we inspected the St. Francis of Assisi Church of England, a beautiful structure made of the native rock and a co-operative project, and saw there many unique treasures from England and other parts of the world. During the day we stopped to visit with Miss Batman and saw many of her treasures among them a beautiful needle point and petit point picture made by her grandmother before 1851. Meeting Miss Batman the next day at the convention made it seem that we were already among old friends.

The convention on the Island was held at Silver Water, about 17 miles from Gore Bay. It was a lovely drive in the early morning, but rather overcast and not a good day for pictures. Meeting the women was just like being at my own convention. In fact I met one of our area convention conveners from Rainy River, who had moved to the Island and had not been able to attend our convention. Demonstrations seemed to be a part of all reports. One, I thought, rather interesting, was the way to fold a

man's shirt. Some sayings were "If the times do not fit you, fit yourself into them" and "Neighbourliness is Citizenship". As the Island has now become a part of a larger convention area, it was decided to call the annual meeting which will be continued, a conference and the officers were elected to take care of the arrangements for another year when it will be held at Providence Bay. Altogether it was a most interesting and delightful day.

The next day we left the Island, travelling to Thessalon where we stayed at the Hotel Sinton while we attended the convention at Sowerby. It was a long trip, much of it over roads under construction and repair. But we were an agreeable group and could even make a joke of the dust sifting into the car. The retracing of our steps on the Island was as beautiful as ever with one never sure what picture would face you around the turn. The train track must wind as much as the roadway for between Swift Current and Espanola, we were passed and repassed by a short train so many times, we felt almost familiar with the engineer in the cab and the brakeman in the caboose to whom we waved each time our paths crossed. Once again on the mainland the nature of the foliage changed with more jack pines, spruce and birch in evidence and less maple and oak.

#### ALGOMA CONVENTION (7 Districts—75 Institutes —Attendance 209)

The next two days were spent at the convention at Sowerby and once again I felt at home with the women. This area convention has been rearranged and enlarged to include Manitoulin, Sudbury, Algoma and St. Joseph's Island and I was pleased to see the very hospitable way in which the new districts were welcomed and that the delegates all took an active part in all discussions. As on the Island, there was a good representation of branches present from all districts and I believe the new offer of grants for travelling expenses from the Department has been a great help to those of us from the north who must travel so far to meet together. One member from Meldrum Bay, on Manitoulin Island, told us that she was only 25 miles from the meeting as the crow flies but she had to travel 235 miles by road to reach Sowerby.

Something impressed me very favourably. It was the printed programmes which are put out by the districts. In them are the programmes of all the branches in that district, stating place and time of meeting and items of interest in connection with their planned programme for the year. These are printed and

sold to the branches at cost and not only act as a stimulus to the branches but serve as a connecting link to bind the district closer together in one unit.

Here once again the reports were very interesting and well compiled. They showed a development or neighbourliness in preparing meals for the bereaved and presenting gifts to new citizens and a growth of citizenship in the greater interest shown in the school district and through the classes taken through the Co-operative Programme. At both meetings I was pleased to hear the report from the Junior Convener and the interest shown in their welfare. Mr. J. M. MacIntosh, District Agricultural Representative, Sault Ste. Marie, addressed the meeting and stressed working with the young people on the farms through our school fairs and club work. He said we should develop a more prosperous rural life by having good farmers followed by good farmers (the sons), and that modern conveniences should be provided on the farms because they were essential for comfort.

Pictures of other parts and people are always of interest and we were all interested in seeing the slides which Miss Lewis showed. We also like to see ourselves another year and Miss Lewis is building up a very valuable collection of slides taken as she goes from group to group. An added feature of the evening meeting was the showing of the film "Let There Be Light".

On Saturday morning once again we retraced our steps and travelled to Sudbury, arriving there in time for lunch. Even in the week's time a difference could be seen in the foliage on the trees. It rained on Friday and more and more the leaves were dropping to the ground leaving the birches standing stark naked among the green of the evergreens. At Sudbury, I was dropped to make the trip back to the Lakehead and how I envied the other three who continued on together. It had been a most delightful week and I felt I was leaving old friends as they travelled onward.

#### TIMMINS CONVENTION (4 Districts—36 Institutes —Attendance 130)

Mrs. J. R. Futcher in reporting the convention stated:

"The two-day convention was an excellent one with a good increase in attendance over last year. Reports were splendid, well organized and capably presented. In this area, some of the branches have compiled an Institute Cook Book. One branch gives a prize of a book to the pupil in each grade in their local school who shows the most marked improvement. Under Agriculture, they reviewed the progress in farming methods over the past 40 years. Need of dental care in the whole area was stressed and it is hoped the Department will soon find some way of meeting this need. They had a splendid evening session here well interspersed with games and music."

#### POWASSAN (6 Districts—64 Institutes —Attendance 226)

Again, Mrs. Futcher reports: "As I listened to the reports at Powassan I realized how very much improved the reports were. At every convention they had been well organized, with emphasis on important matters. The majority of them cited suggestions for future study. I gathered some new ideas here. One Institute has its members bring a package of food to each meeting, thus enabling a parcel of food to be sent off to a sister Institute in Britain each month.

"One branch bought a subscription to the Reader's Digest and this is passed around among the members. They studied laws pertaining to women and children and kept a watchful eye on local school boards. On the wall of the hall where the meetings were held, a quilt was hanging with a map drawn on it to the scale of 2 miles to the inch showing Champlain's trail when he travelled the waterways in this part of Ontario.