

A matter to be considered at the November meeting of the Provincial Board of the F.W.I.O. will be the preparation of a brief for presentation to the Select Committee on Conservation. The brief will set out how rural women can help in this important question both in the rural home and on the farm. She said that Conservation will provide the main study programme for Institutes for the next two years.

Because of the great importance of Agriculture and Citizenship Mrs. Fitcher expressed the hope that a conveners conference might be held at the O.A.C. early in May, 1950, for all conveners of Agriculture and Canadian Industries and Citizenship and Education.

The second week in July is being set aside by O.A.C. in Guelph for Women's Institute members to enjoy a holiday.

At the present time a committee is working on a new song book which should be ready for next year's convention.

The President described her trip to Saskatchewan to attend the F.W.I.C. biennial. The main speaker at the biennial was the International President, Mrs. Sayre of Iowa. She was a most powerful and inspiring speaker and her main theme was tolerance and learning to live together. Mrs. Sayre told the gathering, "It is a small world, the old garment of our thinking doesn't fit it any more. We have taken a stitch in time, we have taken a pleat in space and to meet conditions in this new changing world we must let out the seams of our thinking." "The closer you live with other people the harder it is to get along with them", said Mrs. Sayre. "The smallness of the world requires new adjustments and we will find it difficult unless we solve the problems of living with different races."

(Note: Mrs. Fitcher's complete report may be borrowed from the Loan Library, 1207 Bay Street, Toronto.)

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Miss Anna P. Lewis, Director, Women's Institute Branch and Home Economics Service reported (up to November 9) 1426 Branch Institutes in the Province with a membership of 47,154. During the year April 1 to March 31, 1949, 52 Institutes were organized, 17 of which were Junior. Between March 31 and November 9, 25 new branches had been formed.

Miss Lewis stressed the importance of the branch Institute and the individual members for, from the opinions formed there, depended the policies laid down by the F.W.I.O.

"Busy rural women back in the home community in every part of rural Ontario are bending every effort through their branch Women's Institute to give unselfish service FOR HOME AND COUNTRY, stated Miss Lewis. "We cannot overstress the fact that the branch Women's Institute is the first and most important part of our whole set up—From it has grown every part of the organization and to serve it all else exists."

"The strength of the branch Institute depends upon the loyal support, the unselfish service, the unending vigilance, co-operation and hard work of each individual member within the branch. Our organization will remain strong and will go forward to make an even greater and more worthwhile contribution 'For Home and Country' because we have a vast multitude of women; alert, sound thinking, public spirited women; women who are wholesome, kind hearted and understanding; women willing to work wholeheartedly and unselfishly 'for the good of all mankind.'"

"It is the purpose of our Branch of the Department of Agriculture to assist you and work right along with you in this noble task. We are at your service."

"By voicing your opinion and carrying a vote in the branch Women's Institute, the district and the convention area, the individual member in the organization is wielding her influence and helping to shape the

OTTAWA AREA MEET AT CHATEAU LAURIER



Left to right: Mrs. S. G. Wilson, Arnprior, sec.-treasurer; Mrs. E. E. Morton, Vegreville, Alta., F.W.I.C. President; Mrs. E. Halpenny, Lanark, area chairman; Miss Anna P. Lewis, Director.

policies of the organization as a whole. Policies of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario are laid down by the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario Board in session—Our organizations is democracy at work.

"This has been one of the secrets of the success of our Organization. The members do not sit back 'and let Joe do the work' but each active member in the organization does accept her responsibility and through the united effort of all putting both mind and shoulder to the wheel our organization has run along smoothly and has travelled far in benefiting HOME AND COUNTRY.

"We have a long way to go yet to fulfil the words of our ode 'each shall seek the common weal—the good of all mankind'. Nevertheless our organization has a great potential power. What we accomplish is in direct proportion to the amount of sound thinking and planning we do and the unselfish service given by each and every member as she takes an active part in the organization.

"The function of our Branch is two fold. The first duty of your director is to direct and promote the work of the Women's Institutes of Ontario (that is, after that policy has been laid down by the voting board directors, F.W.I.O.) and the second is to organize and administer the work of the Women's Institute Branch and Home Economics Service."

Miss Lewis then briefly outlined the services and work done by the Women's Institute Branch.

(This report may be obtained by writing to the Loan Library.)

Miss Lewis encouraged the members to study their local branches. In this connection she spoke of a survey that had been made by the Home Bureau (a rural organization in the United States similar to the Women's Institute). Non Members in the community where the survey was made

were asked to tell why they were not members of the Bureau. Some of the replies were: "We were never asked"; "We do not feel welcome"; "We know very little about the Home Bureau"; "We have no one to look after our young children and we have not been encouraged to take them to meetings"; "Local units are not run well"; "Cliques make it very difficult for newcomers to be taken in until they have been in the community a long time". Miss Lewis asked the women to think about this survey and see if any of their findings were applicable to our communities.

All present at conventions were alike in their comments "oh! If only more from our Institute had been here to share this experience!"—"We can take back a report of proceedings but,—to be here, rub shoulders with friends, catch the true spirit of Institute work—it is all so contagious and enriching—we just can't help going back better citizens for having had this experience". "The thing I like about conventions is ATMOSPHERE!"

From Providence Branch, Mrs. O'Hare has sent in a comment, typical of so many received. We quote:

"This was my first convention. To say I was thrilled and inspired is putting it mildly. I think no woman can really understand the vastness, the scope of the work and the fellowship of working together FOR HOME AND COUNTRY until she has, herself, attended a convention. Not only do we receive a wealth of information but we feel a part of a great whole, all working together in a warm, friendly enriching way with our great goal in view.

"To see 700 ladies together in one area meeting, to hear we are nearing the 50,000 mark in Ontario, to learn about Institute activities throughout the world, to realize that our very own women take an active part at the world meeting (A.C.W.W.) and to

ONE THOUSAND WOMEN ATTEND CENTRAL AREA



Officers are left to right: Mrs. J. G. Snider, Weston, Vice-Chairman; Mrs. E. E. Morton, F.W.I.C. President; Mrs. Gordon McPhatter, Owen Sound, area Sec.-treasurer; Mrs. N. White, Brooklin, area Chairman; Mrs. J. R. Fitcher, F.W.I.O. President; Miss Anna P. Lewis, Director.

know and understand that we are each a part of that whole, then we begin to realize that here is something big and worthwhile."

Yes, conventions are big and worthwhile; so big and worthwhile that all year long we are putting into practise the truths gleaned; so big and worthwhile that we would like you all to plan now to share with us in 1950 that inspiring, informative, enriching experience.

A.P.L.

Welcome to New Institutes

We welcome the following Women's Institutes which have been organized since March 31, 1949.

DISTRICT	INSTITUTE
Algoma N.S.	Echo Valley
Bruce East	Bruceedale
Cochrane North	Hunta
Dufferin S.	Hockley Valley
Dundas	Colquhoun
Grey Centre	Blantyre
Grey North	Briar Hill
	Owen Sound Jr.
Hastings East	Foxboro
Kent East	Clachan Junior
Lambton Centre	Froomfield
Lambton East	Euphemia
Lambton North	Plympton Township Junior
	Sarnia Township Junior
Lambton South	Oakdale
Leeds East	Seeley's Bay
Lincoln	Grace Community
Middlesex East	Wellburn
Middlesex West	Glencoe Junior
Muskoka North	Hekkla
Parry Sound South	Maple Island
Parry Sound South	Sundridge
Perth North	Donegal
	Mount Pleasant
Peterborough	Brookdale
Renfrew North	Mackey
Renfrew South	Stewartville
Simcoe East	Warmminster
Sudbury	Chelmsford
Sudbury	Naughton
Sudbury	North Star
Thunder Bay	Macdiarmid
Thunder Bay	Red Rock
Thunder Bay	The McGregor
Wellington North	Beehive
York West	Elders Mills

The following Institutes were re-organized:

Kent East	Palmyra
Renfrew North	Lake Dore

The following Institutes were organized between Feb., 1949 and March 31, 1949.

District	Institute
Algoma East	Princess
	Margaret Junior
Bruce East	Mildmay Junior
	Williscroft
Bruce South	Teeswater Junior
Grey South	Hamden
Hastings East	Carmel
Kent East	Blenheim-Ridgetown Junior
Lennox	Napanee Junior
Middlesex North	Lucan Junior
Oxford South	Culloden
Simcoe East	Hawkestone
Victoria West	Bolsover
Waterloo North	Bloomington
Wellington Centre	Nicol Junior
Wentworth South	Ancastor Junior
York East	Langstaff Juniors

WARNING TO LETTER FRIENDS

When writing letters to Pen Pals in other lands, the F.W.I.O. wish to advise you not to divulge any information which might prove of value to enemy agents, e.g. location of Industrial plants, etc.

Grenville South, Prescott, received a letter of thanks for parcels sent to their adopted daughter Yamilla, in Bologne, France.