



At Northern Ireland Women's Institute Rally. Left to right: Mrs. Arthur Hamilton, Mrs. Stephen Mercer, Mrs. R. G. Purcell, Lady Cynthia Brooke; Miss Anna Lewis, the Marchioness of Hamilton.

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Words cannot express the admiration the Canadians felt for the Londoners and all the British who, through austerity, hardship and sacrifice are bound to overcome the ravages of war. It was heart-breaking to see the bomb destruction. Buildings, documents and treasures of the ages which never can be replaced were gone. But the morale of the people was outstanding. Froissart, the French chronicler wrote of the Londoners in the fourteenth century words still true of them: "They are bold and courageous, and the more blood is spilled the greater is their courage". As an example of the Londoners' spirit the writer jotted down an inscription placed inside the bomb-destroyed Church of Saint Swithin's where the famous London Stone is situated:

"This has been consecrated ground for at least seven centuries. The church has perished. Some day, please God, it will (not for the first time) rise from the ashes, fairer even than before. Meanwhile, Saint Swithin's still tries to serve the city of London by providing a quiet spot where men can rest, and think, and pray, as well as eat their lunch."

N.F.W.I. Commonwealth Week-End Party at Denman College

While the major part of the Canadian group was travelling through Norway and Sweden, one representative from each province was invited by the National Federation of Women's Institutes of England, Wales and the Channel Islands, to attend a British Commonwealth week-end party at Denman Women's Institute College at Marcham, near Abingdon in Berkshire. Here the Canadian representatives met sister members from Africa, Australia, Ceylon, New Zealand, Northern Ireland and the British West Indies. This week-end provided a splendid opportunity to hear about the projects and problems of Women's Institutes throughout the Commonwealth and to share in the fellowship at Denman College.

This generous gesture on the part of the N.F.W.I. was greatly appreciated by all the Commonwealth organizations. Much was gained through this sharing of ideas. It was especially fine to have first-hand information about Lady Denman College—a thriving N.F.W.I. project. This Women's Institute College might well be a model for similar projects in other countries.

Northern Ireland

A veritable fairyland atmosphere was created since it was by air that the delegates approached "The Emerald Isle". As the plane descended over those greener than green handkerchief fields near Belfast maybe they

did not actually see fairies, leprechauns, and banshees, about which their Irish grandmothers used to speak, but it was fun to let the imagination run rampant on first viewing the land of the shamrocks, the clay pipes and the Giant's Causeway.

Mrs. Stephen Mercer, the dynamic, vivacious organizer and director of Women's Institutes in Northern Ireland, escorted the group from the airport to a luncheon meeting where Lady Brooke, wife of the Prime Minister and Chairman of the Women's Institutes of Northern Ireland, and The Marchioness of Hamilton, President of the Northern Ireland Women's Institutes, acted as co-hostesses.

That afternoon a capacity audience, in Clarence Place Hall, representing ninety-eight of the one hundred and three Women's Institutes of Northern Ireland met to learn more about the Women's Institute movement in Canada. The highlight of the afternoon's programme was the showing of the Canadian Women's Institute colour film "Let There Be Light". This told the story of the origin of the movement and the growth of the organization up to the present.

The Canadians found that a magnificent job is being done by the Women's Institutes in Northern Ireland. Here the difficulties of religious differences have left mountains of distrust and prejudice to be overcome in order that friendliness and co-operation might win out. The Irish expression "hasten slowly" was understood when Mrs. Mercer explained—"The division in the country, religious and political, goes deep and, in each new Institute, members have first to learn to meet under the same roof and to find that, after all, they have much in common. Within the framework of the Federation each Institute is encouraged to develop along the lines best suited to itself and its district, and at its own pace."

After an appetizing tea of Irish delicacies the Canadians left with their Women's Institute hostesses to spend the week-end learning more about the customs of Northern Ireland. From the time the Canadians crossed the threshold of those hospitable homes until they boarded the "Ulster Duke" back to Liverpool they were royally entertained and educated in the ways of the Northern Irish.

Besides contacts with Institute groups here and there the visit included a tour of the Mourne Mountains, the grave of St. Patrick, a visit to "Slemish and Skeery", and the Agricultural School at Cookstown, the little summer house where Dean Swift wrote "Gulliver's Travels", Old Bleach at Randalstown, Stormont Castle and Parliament Buildings, Overseas House at Belfast, and the Blackstaff Spinning and Weaving Company. Of course, Canadians could not leave

Biennial Meeting, Federated Women's Institutes of Canada, June 19-26, 1951

The Seventeenth Biennial Meeting of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada met at Macdonald College, Ste. Anne De Bellevue, Quebec, on June 19-26 inclusive.

The President, Mrs. E. E. Morton, Vegreville, Alberta, was in the chair and two Board Directors were present from each province. Mrs. Hugh Summers, Fonthill, Ontario, First Vice-President, F.W.I.C. and Mrs. J. H. East, Keremeos, Second Vice-President, presided at some of the sessions.

After fitting words of welcome to all, Mrs. Morton spoke special words of welcome to the delegates from Newfoundland and, by hearty applause, the Board Directors voiced their pleasure and approval at their presence.

Mrs. Morton, in her report, gave an extensive account of her activities as President of F.W.I.C. Her report was filled with excellent information—national and international meetings were attended, proving the interest of F.W.I.C. in matters of world-wide scope. Mrs. Morton's report was so outstanding that the Board Directors voted that copies be made and sent

Northern Ireland without "seeing with their own eyes" a fairy tree, a fort "where the little men with red jackets live" and a hill "where the leprechauns come out and dance"!

Long will the Canadians remember this glorious climax to their visit with sister organizations abroad.

Not only do the happy memories linger, but the mutual knowledge and understanding are ever broadened and enriched through "friendship links" firmly established.

Home Again

Via "Empress of Scotland" the Canadian delegates sailed eagerly towards home after eight glorious weeks. The days abroad had sped by very quickly. Each day brought new experiences, fresh enthusiasm and deeper, richer understanding. There was no doubt about the value or "worth-whileness" of the tour. Enriched and broadened by her experience, each came home a wiser, more useful world citizen.

These rural women were happy to be home again on Canadian soil where freedom, security and opportunity abound. They appreciated more fully these values and realized the necessity of working hard to preserve the Canadian Way of Life and to develop its potentialities. They understood how important it is for women to take a positive stand in developing the pattern of living.

Within the heart of each there was a deep, nostalgic love and appreciation for home and family, community and country. But also, within the heart of each burned the immortal words of Edith Cavell, quoted at the Conference, "Love of one's country—love of one's own—is not enough; God's kingdom is wider still".

CONCLUSION

Because the next A.C.W.W. Conference will be held in Canada—at the Royal York Hotel, Aug. 12-23, 1953—great opportunities will be ours as we welcome and entertain sister members from abroad. It is true, we do not have the castles, palaces and multitudes of historic ruins seen in those countries visited; we do not have the same richness and antiquity in our culture and traditions; but we are Canada—a strong, virile, young nation—an example of DEMOCRACY. Let us be ourselves at our best. Let us plan now how we may show true Canadian hospitality. Let us make the Associated Country Women's visit to Canada one which will be uplifting, informative and, above all, entertaining, a visit which will lead to mature thought and action on the part of our country women everywhere, a visit out of which will grow true international understanding and world betterment.

(Contributed by Anna P. Lewis)

to each province.

The business sessions were lengthy and arduous.

Two extremely important matters, especially interesting to Ontario, should be mentioned first. Our own Mrs. Hugh Summers of Fonthill, First Vice-President, was elected President of F.W.I.C. We all know Mrs. Summers' ability and her long years of outstanding service in Institute work in our province. We know she will bring honour to Ontario Institutes as she fulfils the demanding duties of this important office and we pledge to her our loyalty and our co-operation. The second great item of news is that the Associated Country Women of the World will meet in Canada in 1953 and Ontario is the province chosen by the National Directors as the Hostess Province.

Committees have been set up for the A.C.W.W. meeting in Canada. These will start functioning immediately for it will be a supreme effort to arrange for and carry through to completion such an international meeting. There will be a "Canada Day" when Institute members will meet with the delegates for a full day of entertainment. So, Ontario members, start planning now for that great day. Every Canadian Institute member is to have a share in the financing of the Conference. The following motion was carried, "That a letter be sent from F.W.I.C. to Provincial Boards asking that they contact their members, stating that we are depending upon our Canadian membership to bear the cost of the A.C.W.W. Conference and asking that each individual member contribute what she can, in the name of her Institute".

A suitable memorial to Mrs. Alfred Watt, a Canadian woman, the first President of the A.C.W.W. and the person responsible for the formation of Institutes in England and Wales, was the subject of much discussion. A committee was set up to consider different suggestions advanced and, before the close of the sessions, this committee proposed the following recommendation, that was approved by the Board:

"That a suitable memorial to Mrs. Watt, namely, a Memorial Cairn, with Bird Bath suitably inscribed, be placed in the F.W.I.C. plot in the International Peace Garden and that this project be financed by the payment of 1c per member, to be paid at the Branch Institute meeting in the International Month of February, 1952.

International Peace Garden

Just here, our Ontario Institute members might welcome some information about the International Peace Garden. This garden is 3½ miles long, on either side of the International Boundary Line between Manitoba and North Dakota. Six small lakes have been dredged for swimming and boating. The T. Eaton Co. Limited has decorated the foreman's house, recently completed. Workingmen's houses are also complete and seven tourist cabins are in use by the travelling public. Hydro is to be installed this summer and also a sunken garden completed and planted. The Canadian Government annually gives \$15,000 toward the upkeep of the Garden—the United States Government \$70,000. This is augmented by yearly gifts from organizations such as our own (Each province gives \$20. per annum towards this project). The F.W.I.C. plot is near the entrance to the Garden, and is noticed by all who enter. This plot has been planted with shrubbery, perennials and annuals and is becoming quite attractive. The committee in charge of the Garden, plan that this year will be the year of greatest development to date. When the chairman of the International Peace Garden Incorporated was challenged with the question "How can we think of Peace and