

Peace Garden with the world in such an upheaval—with war going on in Korea and the threat of war elsewhere?" he answered, "In such an atmosphere, any institution, no matter how local or small, that centres men's thinking on the things that are beautiful, that are peaceful and that are typical of the principles taught by the Great Master, are deserving of our support. Such is the International Peace Garden".

Provincial Briefs

Much time was spent in the discussion of Briefs, submitted by each province to the National Board. These Briefs contained suggestions as to future policies and functioning of F.W.I.C. and were very challenging and stimulating.

Reports covering the last Biennial term and submitted by the Conveners of Standing Committees were excellent—each convenue reporting good work being done and great interest in current topics of study. Mrs. W. A. Thomson of Pense, Saskatchewan, Convenue of Home Economics, reported that all provinces were busy promoting Health and Nutrition. Mrs. Robert Scarth of Isabella, Manitoba, Convenue of Agriculture and Canadian Industries reported all provinces were stressing "Soil Conservation" in all its phases. Mrs. J. E. Houck of Brampton, Ontario, reported excellent work being done in her Standing Committee of Citizenship. Mrs. Houck was disappointed in just one thing. She received only three answers to her competition for a suitable programme for "I am a Canadian" day. The Institute submitting the best programme is to receive a cash award, donated by Mrs. Houck. The Board decided that this competition be continued for another Biennial term in the hope that Branch Institutes would take a more active interest and formulate a programme that could serve as a model.

All present regretted the absence of Mrs. Prescott of New Brunswick, Convenue of Cultural Activities, who has had to resign her position because of illness, and of Mrs. Thompson, Senior Board Director of Quebec Institutes and President of Quebec Institutes who has been forced to resign both positions because of illness in her family. The same conveners were appointed for another Biennial term and Mrs. W. A. Turner of New Minas, Nova Scotia, was appointed Convenue of Cultural Activities. It was decided that the following topic of study be stressed for the next Biennial term in each province: "That the study of United Nations Organization be undertaken for the next two-year period—FAO under the Convenership of Agriculture, WHO under Home Economics, UNESCO under Citizenship, Human Rights and Cultural Activities."

Concise reports were given by a Board Director from each Province, covering the work accomplished by that province in the past two years. Following each report time was allowed for discussion, giving each province the opportunity of learning of new ideas and new methods for the promotion of Institute work.

Resolutions from each province were also considered. Those considered must have a national outlook. The Resolutions Chairman was empowered to change the wording of resolutions presented to that of a national level, as long as the meaning of the resolution was not changed. Following is one resolution sustained that all Institute members can incorporate into their daily living:

"WHEREAS, we the Board of Directors of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada recognize the troubled and confused situation among the Nations of the World today; and

"WHEREAS, we believe this is due to economic difficulties and struggle between conflicting political ideologies; and

"WHEREAS, we appreciate that such conditions cannot be ignored by thinking people; and

"WHEREAS, we deplore the attitude of pessimism and discouragement among a large number of our citizens; and

"WHEREAS, in the past decades we have survived adversity through our faith in Divine Providence,

"THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada, reaffirm their faith in the future of our country and in the value of Democratic Government; and,

"FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that we ask our members to live according to their faith in Divine Providence and to express this belief to others".

The Board also supported a resolution favouring a uniform system of education, with the same basic or core subjects, texts and standards for all provinces.

The work and report of the Budget Committee dealt largely with ways and means of increasing F.W.I.C. funds and the recommendation of the committee was for an increase in allotment per capita. Some provinces felt this would be difficult to obtain in view of the financing of the forthcoming A.C.W.W. meeting. Others felt an effort should be made and the motion was carried that Provincial Representatives consult with their respective Boards as to the need of an increase in per capita givings and it was further recommended and carried that the raise in F.W.I.C. fees be from 5c to 7c.

There was a lengthy discussion on Tweedsmuir Competitions. This competition was originated in 1945 by Lady Tweedsmuir, who donated three silver cups for this national project—one for Tweedsmuir Histories, one for a handicraft project and one for an essay on a given topic. From Ontario entries, Glenmorris Women's Institute received second prize for its Tweedsmuir History.

The projects for the next Biennial term were thoroughly discussed and following are the decisions made by the Board:

- (1) That the Essay be on "The Rural Home", following A.C.W.W. rules and regulations on this essay, to be submitted to F.W.I.C. by October 1, 1952.
- (2) That the Handicraft project be a quilt following these specifications:
 - (a) Design—original. (b) Applique, button-holed or hemmed, embroidered to carry out design. (c) Hand quilted. (d) Size—80" to 90" wide; 108" long. (e) Material—cotton. (f) Newly made by the group. (g) Weight — light weight.
- (3) The History project would remain the same.

The Directors were intensely interested in the report of Mrs. Young, representative from Newfoundland, on the "Work of the Jubilee Guilds". So interesting was her report of the work being done in our new tenth province that the Board voted that her account be mimeographed that all Board Directors might have a copy. (Copies of this are available from our Loan Library). Miss Anna Templeton, the other Newfoundland representative and a member of our Canadian delegation to Copenhagen last year, gave the information that the Jubilee Guilds were organized in 1936. Their motto is "Confidence, Courage and Unity". There are 88 Guilds on the Island with a membership of 2,500-3,000. The Guilds are financed by a Provincial Government grant plus a fee of 25c per member. Classes in cooking, sewing and weaving are carried on. The Guilds have a handicraft shop from which goods are sold and they are in need of markets for these goods. The necessary changes in F.W.I.C. by-laws to incorporate Newfoundland as a full member in F.W.I.C. were approved.

Mrs. Abercrombie, Publicity Convenue and Editor of Federated News, presented an interesting report. Items of interest from National Conveners are to appear in each issue of Federated News.

Mrs. Challand of Simcoe, Ont., Letter Friend Secretary, in her report asked that once a letter friend contact is made and a new friend found through correspondence, that our members keep up the letters and not be guilty of neglect and lack of interest.

It was requested by the Board that Institute members throughout Canada celebrate three special days each year: (1) International Day (A.C.W.W. and F.W.I.C.) at the February meeting. (2) I am a Canadian Day—or Citizenship Day—May 23rd. (3) United Nations Day in October.

The above are the main items that were considered by the Federated Board in session. The sincere thanks of the Board of Directors went to Mrs. Strong of Vegreville, Alberta, secretary-treasurer of F.W.I.C. during Mrs. Morton's two-year term in office, for her excellent work and generous kindly help. Mrs. Gordon Maynard of Unionville, well known to Ontario Institute members, has been appointed secretary-treasurer of F.W.I.C. for the next Biennial term.

Civil Defence Speaker

It was not work and discussion all the time. There were many pleasant and enjoyable interludes, thanks to the planning and generosity of the Quebec Women's Institutes.

On Wednesday afternoon, Mrs. Percy of the Department of Civil Defence spoke to us in the role of nurse, as to our knowledge of Civil Defence needs. In her timely talk she stressed several important factors:

- (1) In this age no one is immune from attack. We are vulnerable here to atomic bombing.
- (2) Canada's distances create a great many problems.
- (3) Civil Defence is now under the Department of National Health.
- (4) This fall, travelling teams of trained personnel will start from Ottawa and will cover the provinces to instruct key people, who in turn will instruct others as to civil defence needs.
- (5) She emphasized this statement: "In case of atomic bombing casualties will be terrific, but, except for the number of casualties, there will be nothing that we have not known before — neither in type or treatment of casualties."
- (6) Within one-half mile radius there is total destruction. This decreases as you move out.
- (7) Blast, heat, fire, radiation are the evils. Radiation lasts only a few seconds. Rescue workers can go in, in a matter of seconds. The other factors are more serious.
- (8) One big question is, "How are we going to get supplies to places that need them—because professional personnel will be casualties also". She stressed the tremendous need for volunteers in first aid and asked us all to streamline our first aid courses to make them adaptable to such a catastrophe. Mrs. Percy pointed out that nurses will have to perform doctors' tasks and also nurses will have to turn over to volunteers, tasks that used to be theirs.
- (9) These facts are grim, but there is a brighter side. It is a great help to have knowledge of what to expect and what to do and Defence workers are supplying the knowledge. With such knowledge no one will be safe, but many will be saved.
- (10) We must all develop an attitude of mind that will steady us. We must not create panic.

After this very moving and rather grim picture, the Federated Board was entertained at the Macdonald College Club, as guests of Dr. and Mrs. Brittain, for afternoon tea. This gave us our first opportunity to meet

some of the officers of Quebec Institutes and also some of the staff of Macdonald College and was a very pleasant interlude between busy sessions.

The business meeting Wednesday evening was interrupted to witness a pageant, presented for the pleasure of F.W.I.C., by the Vaudreuil-Dorion Women's Institute. The play was written and directed by Mrs. D. Wyse, of Dorion Women's Institute, who also took the leading role of Canada. The dialogue was extremely clever, very often beautiful in word and thought, and we were all entranced by this very colourful pageant. It depicted what "Women of Canada" can do for Canada, no matter what their vocation—housewife, teacher, nurse, professional career, farmer—all have a part to play in the development of our country, and all have a responsibility in seeing that our country develops as she should, along the lines of justice, peace, culture and democracy.

Thursday afternoon the members of the F.W.I.C. Board were guests of the Quebec Women's Institutes on a delightful bus trip through Montreal. This was followed by a good cup of tea at the very historic "Habitant" Tea Room.

Friday afternoon the Board Directors left on a planned bus trip to Quebec City, guests of the Quebec Department of Agriculture. It was a beautiful drive to Quebec, along the St. Lawrence River, and visits were paid to the Shrines of Ste. Madeleine and Ste. Anne de Beauré. Reservations had been made at the Chateau Normand, just across from the Chateau Frontenac. We reached Quebec in time to walk along its famous promenade and visit some points of interest in old Quebec. Saturday, at noon, we were the guests of the Minister of Agriculture for Quebec at a very delightful luncheon at the Chateau Frontenac. Madame LeBeau, of the Handicraft Division, Department of Agriculture, was the gracious hostess. Members of the Cercle des Femmes, the rural French-speaking groups of Quebec, were also present. Following the luncheon Madame LeBeau took us to the Handicraft offices where we saw exquisite samples of French handicraft. These included rugs, draperies, pictures, wood carving and pottery.

The highlight of the whole session, to many of us, was the privilege of welcoming our International President, Mrs. Raymond Sayre. Mrs. Sayre had just completed a round-the-world-trip which included visits to Institute groups in Australia, New Zealand, Africa, Ceylon and the countries of Europe including Great Britain.

On the final day of our meeting, Monday, June 2nd, we were guests of the Quebec Women's Institutes at a banquet in the College dining room. Hundreds of members assembled for this occasion, for their Provincial Convention started the following morning at the College. Mrs. Sayre arrived in time to be a guest at the banquet and to speak to us all, later, about her trip and about conditions in the countries she visited.

Excellent and informative messages were brought to the Board by Miss Florence Reynolds, FAO Liaison Officer, Department of Agriculture, Washington, and Miss Constance Hayward, Liaison Officer, Department of Citizenship, Ottawa.

In the closing exercises special thanks were tendered to Quebec Women's Institutes for the many courtesies extended to us all and also to them and the staff of the College for their fine co-operation in arranging details and making our sojourn at Macdonald College so enjoyable.

A special "thank you" was extended to our much beloved retiring president, Mrs. E. E. Morton, who has given many faithful years of service to F.W.I.C. and who headed our organization for the Biennial term 1949-51.

(Contributed by Dorothy E. Fletcher)