

F.W.I.O. Board Meeting

From a Report by Ina Hodgins

THE Spring Board Meeting of the F.W.I.O. was held at the O.A.C., Guelph, on April 28, 29 and 30th, 1952. Twenty-eight Board Members, one alternate, the Honorary President, the Director of the Women's Institute Branch, the Secretary-Treasurer, the conveners of Agriculture and Canadian Industries, Community Activities and Public Relations and Historical Research and Current Events were in attendance.

President's Address

In her address to the Board Members, the President said, in part: "Some of the recognized leaders of world affairs and peace movements say that the chief stumbling block and difficulty is that men and governments place too much emphasis on the material things instead of the spiritual. There is not enough emphasis on the magic force of brotherly love.

"Brotherly love is the heart beat of all religions. Without it, there would be no compassion, no helping hand, no good-will. Love for one's fellow man is essential in a well rounded, balanced, useful, happy life.

"Perhaps most of us admit that we are entirely too busy with our own personal affairs to think very much about brotherly love, too engrossed to cultivate our nearest neighbour, too busy to understand her, too occupied to learn to appreciate and love her, too busy to take into consideration her problems. And by the same token, perhaps this application can be transferred from the individual, to the community, the Province, the Nation and the World. It takes a calamity to make us consider someone else — like the Winnipeg flood or the conditions in Greece, and we have shown how ready we are to respond at such a time. Truly the application of brotherly love becomes with each individual a starting point for a better and warless world.

"There is a true saying that 'The pathway of peace is the pathway that leads from your home to mine'. We can do our parts by reaching out a helping hand to the newcomers in our midst and if at times it looks as if they repudiate our offer of friendship we must try to understand their shyness and reserve. We can show our friendliness to the Indian Homemakers Clubs, and try to bring them into closer relationship with us. I sometimes think that our Women's Institutes are not reaching out to the right women. It is the newcomer, who does not understand much English or the little woman with the large family and the improvident husband who needs our help. Perhaps they are settling temporarily on an abandoned farm or living in that old shack

down by the railroad tracks. These are the women who need our help, our brotherly love. These are the women who can learn and develop in our organization, who need to know more about health habits, proper food and better education for their children. Let us keep the pathway to Peace well trodden and let us give these women as well as others a welcoming hand. Let us show by our actions that women can work, build, and live peaceably together."

In her report the President said the outstanding project of the F.W.I.O. for the year was the Tractor and Flour Fund for Greece to which \$7,397.67 had been contributed by F.W.I.O. members. A diesel tractor, disc harrow and plow had been delivered in Athens, Greece, in time for the spring work. The tractor bears a plaque with the inscription "Gift of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, Canada." \$1,200 more was set aside to buy fuel for the tractor and the balance turned over to the Unitarian Services Committee of Canada for food for the people of Greece.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. J. H. McCulloch, reported receiving since October 1951 — 1,694 letters, mailing 2,097 letters, 133 Branch Life Membership certificates, 3 District Life Membership certificates, mimeographing 85 copies of the November Board Meeting minutes and sending out 1,751 pieces of F.W.I.O. supplies.

On November 26th Mrs. McCulloch represented the President at the Annual Banquet at the O.A.C., Guelph, and presented the Ontario Women's Institute Scholarship awards, which are given each year to five girls entering the Home Economics Degree Course at Macdonald Institute Guelph. These awards are given regionally. The sum of \$100 each was given in the East area to Miss Dorothy Serviage; Center, Miss Betty Eyers; West, Miss Joan Cameron and Miss Anne Fletcher. There was no application from the Northern part of the Province for the fifth award. Mrs. McCulloch also represented Mrs. Purcell at the planning meeting of the new organization, the Conservation Council of Ontario.

Director's Report

Miss Anna P. Lewis gave the report of the Women's Institute Branch and Home Economics Service. There are 1,400 Senior Women's Institute Branches, 81 Junior Branches, a total of 1,481 Branches with 45,767 members. Twenty-nine new Institutes were