

the first Women's Institutes were concerned mostly with problems of the home and the community, and that she has a paper on "Better Methods of Butter Marking" read by her mother at an Institutes Convention in Guelph in 1906. As the Institutes developed they progressed from the branch and district to the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, then to the Federated Women's Institute of Canada, and now they belong to the Associated Country Women of the World.

At first the F.W.I.C. was a co-ordinating body only. In 1949 its scope was broadened to give leadership, and the conveners of standing committees on Home Economics, Agriculture and Canadian Industries, Citizenship, Cultural Activities and Publicity now make suggestions for study and activities. F.W.I.C. also issues an official paper, Federated News, at a cost of ten cents a year to the branch. This paper will be especially interesting from now on as it will give news about the coming A.C.W.W. convention.

Soil and food conservation had been taken for the major objective of the Women's Institutes of Canada at their biennial convention three years ago, Mrs. Summers said, because with over sixty per cent of the world's population hungry, this conservation seemed the most important problem of the time. Also it was a problem rural women could do something about.

"When there is erosion or soil drifting on your own farm," the speaker reminded the women, "you know there are plots that should be planted to trees, and you use pressure to see this is done. The same interest should extend to conservation nationally". Last year this objective was broadened to include a study of the world food situation with related problems. The Women's Institutes under their standing committee on Agriculture are studying F.A.O.; the Health Committee directs the study of the World Health Organization; UNESCO comes under the committee on Community Activities; and the Declaration of Human Rights under the Citizenship Committee." As an organization affiliated with the Associated Country Women of the World we should learn about these things," said the national president.

A further responsibility was laid on the F.W.I.C. at their last meeting in the following declaration: "The F.W.I.C. members reaffirm their faith in the future of our country and in the value of democratic government, and further resolve to ask our members to live according to their faith in Divine Providence and to express this belief to others."

"This means", Mrs. Summers explained, "that we should accept responsibility for helping to form a sound public opinion, holding to a middle of the road policy and letting people know where we stand. To do this we must make an effort to be well informed."

#### **Extension Services for the Homemaker**

Miss Anna P. Lewis, Director, Women's Institute Branch and Home Economics Service,

outlined this year's new plan for taking extension services to the Institutes. Under the new plan the branch institute can arrange for the course it wants without collaboration with the other Institutes in the district, provided the branch can assure the required attendance. Miss Lewis said:

"From experience we have found that some branches, even though the branch delegates came prepared to vote for a certain service, never managed to have their choice of service chosen on the district level. It was felt that there should be more leeway, that it should not be necessary for all Institutes within the district to take the same course but that one Institute could either sponsor a course alone and invite in the women from the local community or **two or more** Institutes within a convenient radius could co-operate in holding an Extension Service with one Institute in this group acting as the sponsor (with the participating Institutes accepting their share in the planning and carrying out of the service).

"In order to find the interests of the members in the branch Institutes an **INTERESTS SURVEY SHEET** was sent out with our booklet "Extension Services for the Homemaker".

"We have found that a branch Institute does not always have enough members interested in any one course to warrant the Institute applying for it. Yet on comparing notes with other Institutes it might find that together the two branches would have more than enough for the course.

"Citing another example, one Institute might have sufficient members interested to sponsor, let us say, a psychology course within its own branch yet 2 or 3 might very much want a course in Modern Dressmaking. By using the **INTERESTS SURVEY SHEET** to compare notes with neighbouring branches it might be found that by co-operating with other groups this minority group could be satisfied. Those with varied interests may attend courses sponsored by nearby Institutes and in this way take in more than one course, if desired.

"From now on there will be no voting on Departmental service at the district level. The Department will still be represented at your Annual. Our staff member will now have time to give you an instructive and inspirational talk in place of taking the time to record your notes. Voting on the Extension Services will take place at a Branch meeting. The deadline date for applications reaching our office has been set for July 12 in order that Branches which are not able to sponsor a service on their own will have time to compare notes with neighbouring branches and the district director can take the Interests Survey Sheet with her to the District executive meeting and the District Annual. There she will find out what other nearby branches are doing and perhaps arrange to have her minority groups join in with these.

"Another reason for our change in set-up is that in recent years we have found that we have had many more requests for services