

The Museum — At Your Service

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"The Record of Nature Through Countless Ages—The Arts of Man Through All the Years." These two statements on either side of the front door of the Royal Ontario Museum express in brief what **your** Museum contains. We invite you to visit it.

If you are coming as a group would you please let us know three weeks in advance of your visit. Write to the Registrar, Division of Education, Royal Ontario Museum. Come any day of the week except Monday when the Museum is closed. Tell us how many of you there will be, when you expect to arrive at the Museum, and what you would like to see. We shall be happy to meet you and show you some of the Museum's collections.

The Royal Ontario Museum belongs to the people of the Province of Ontario. Outside London, England, it is the largest Museum in the British Commonwealth of Nations. What in its 84 rooms, or galleries, would you like to see with a Museum lecturer? Here are a few suggestions.

The Egyptians who were among the first farmers in the world's history, preserved their dead and buried them with their belongings for the materialistic life of the next world in which they believed. Their pottery, stone vases and statues, jewellery, bronze weapons, clothes and many other household things tell us the story of their daily life in ancient times. These you may see in the Museum.

The Chinese galleries house one of the world's best museum collections. If you like lovely dishes and silk and jade you will enjoy seeing some of the best of their kind made by the people who gave the world the finest and best of all "China" ware.

Many of you will like the ladies' dresses worn in the Eighteenth Century, and the clothes of the men who at this time were as interested in their costume as ladies are. In the next gallery you will see a dress worn in Ottawa by Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, when she visited Canada in 1939.

Since we live in Ontario, we will be interested in the model made by Mr. J. McN. McCrea, illustrating how the pioneers in Ontario provided themselves with shelter, food, and built up communities; and the early Ontario textiles, spinning wheel and loom on the second floor, give us a life-size glimpse into the making of cloth in early Ontario. The assembling of this material is a Museum project in which we should like to interest all Women's Institute members.

The first "Canadians" were the North American Indians who lived in many parts of this country; they adapted their mode of life to their environment and made skilful use of

the resources provided by Nature. The animals on which they depended are to be found on the top floor in the Zoology galleries; while the skeletons of those fascinating and strange creatures, the dinosaurs, who went out of existence 60 million years ago, are on the second floor.

And now for a suggestion to those who live too far away from Toronto to make a day's visit. Every January and February, staff members of the Museum's Division of Education visit the schools in two of the far distant areas of the province. This means that every fourth or fifth year a Museum lecturer is in your district with a box of museum material. These day-time school visits may be combined with an evening visit to one of your monthly meetings if you so wish. Here is what you might do. If you live in either of the two areas to be visited, the Women's Institute Branch, will notify you in December. If you receive such a notice and would like a "museum lecture" please write immediately to the Division of Education, Royal Ontario Museum; all arrangements for such a lecture must be made before the lecturers leave on their travels early in January; once we have started on our travels it is too late to arrange to meet you.

To those of you who live within 150 miles of Toronto may we say we shall be pleased to see you here; to those who live beyond this distance, some year we will be coming your way.

More Roll Calls

Perhaps these roll calls, added to those of our last issue, may offer suggestions when you plan your next year's programme: "How we publicized the Institute during the past year," "Things my mother taught me," "A good book to read," "What I should do if I were twenty-one again," "A beautiful thought in poetry," "An old school verse," "An exchange of Christmas gifts, not to cost more than twenty-five cents," "A New Year resolution," "A gardening hint," "Do's and don'ts of traffic laws," "Sing, say or pay," "Something I learned from my grandmother," "Something good about the person on my left," "How to postpone old age," "A Canadian song and its author," "An educational radio programme," "Why I should make a will," "One step I can make toward world peace." One branch had children as guests and they answered the roll call with a nursery rhyme. A timely roll call reported by one Institute was "Something I read about ACWW."